

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

October 1989

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INTERVIEW  
President Bush  
P 28



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# THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 127, No. 4

October 1989

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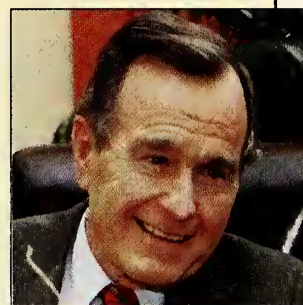
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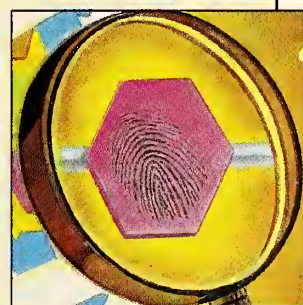
**COVER** An AV-8B Harrier by McDonnell Douglas. Photo by Photri.



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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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## Worst Enemy?

The news item in the August issue about the Soviets' silent-running submarines reflects the short attention span of the American public. It was determined that the Toshiba Corp. of Japan disclosed U.S. technology secrets to the Soviets which solved their submarines' problems. The top executives of Toshiba admitted the disclosure. In the furor that followed, Congress talked of a boycott of Toshiba products, including Toshiba goods in PXes. Has anyone noticed any successful efforts of this proposed boycott? We seem to be our own worst enemy.

George E. Beckwith  
Ocala, Fla.

## Which Is It?

I recently saw the movie *Heartbreak Ridge*. I also read the "Battle Report: Heartbreak Ridge" in the August issue. The movie was about Marines, but the magazine article was about the U.S. Army. I'm confused. What forces participated in the battle?

Dan Granger  
San Francisco, Calif.

*Editor's note: Apparently Hollywood took a great deal of liberty with the movie title. The movie was about the U.S. invasion of Grenada by all U.S. forces, including the Marines, not the Heartbreak Ridge battle of Korea. But the character played by Clint Eastwood was awarded a Medal of Honor while serving with the Army at Heartbreak Ridge.*

## Free Speech

Congratulations to Nat'l. Cmdr. Gierke for his beautiful message on the Supreme Court decision of *Texas v. Johnson*. I recently spent time with two German couples: one couple are now Americans and the other, Australian citizens. Both were infuriated by the court's decision. One of the men escaped from East Germany over the Berlin Wall.

The court read into the First Amendment something which is not there—something that can't be found in any

dictionary. It decided that the act of burning our flag is a form of free speech. Absolutely not true. It is a form of expression, but certainly not of speech. Speech is the spoken word, and an action is not a spoken word. The word *expression* is never even mentioned in the First Amendment.

It should be remembered that the Pledge of Allegiance is first a pledge to the flag and then to the Republic for which it stands. Anyone who desecrates the flag renounces his pledge of allegiance, abrogates his citizenship and should be banished from this country.

Enough has been said about Gregory Lee Johnson. He and his cohorts are not worth the time that has been devoted to them. They are the epitome of all those four-letter words the court has also seen fit to protect.

J. E. Coletto  
Fort Myers, Fla.

Nat'l Cmdr. Gierke's article, "Time To Rally Round The Flag," (August) was one of the finest I've ever read. If it's read by the five Supreme Court justices who voted to permit desecration of our beautiful flag, it would put them to shame. Congratulations to Cmdr. Gierke for telling it as it should be told.

Ralph D. Williams  
Batavia, N.Y.

## Bleeding Heart

My heart really bled when I read Rep. Don Sundquist's letter in the August issue, especially the part about a colleague having to pay \$1,500 out of pocket for a hospital stay. That is 1.67 percent of his basic salary. How would he like to pay 136 percent of his salary for medical expenses as I have to because Congress has cut the VA budget?

Their free travel is just that. They pay only when the free travel is not available. They have about 20 Air Force planes at their disposal. In most cases, these flights cost the taxpayers two to three times more than commercial flights.

As for having to buy stamps, I have never received any junk mail from any congressman that had a regular stamp

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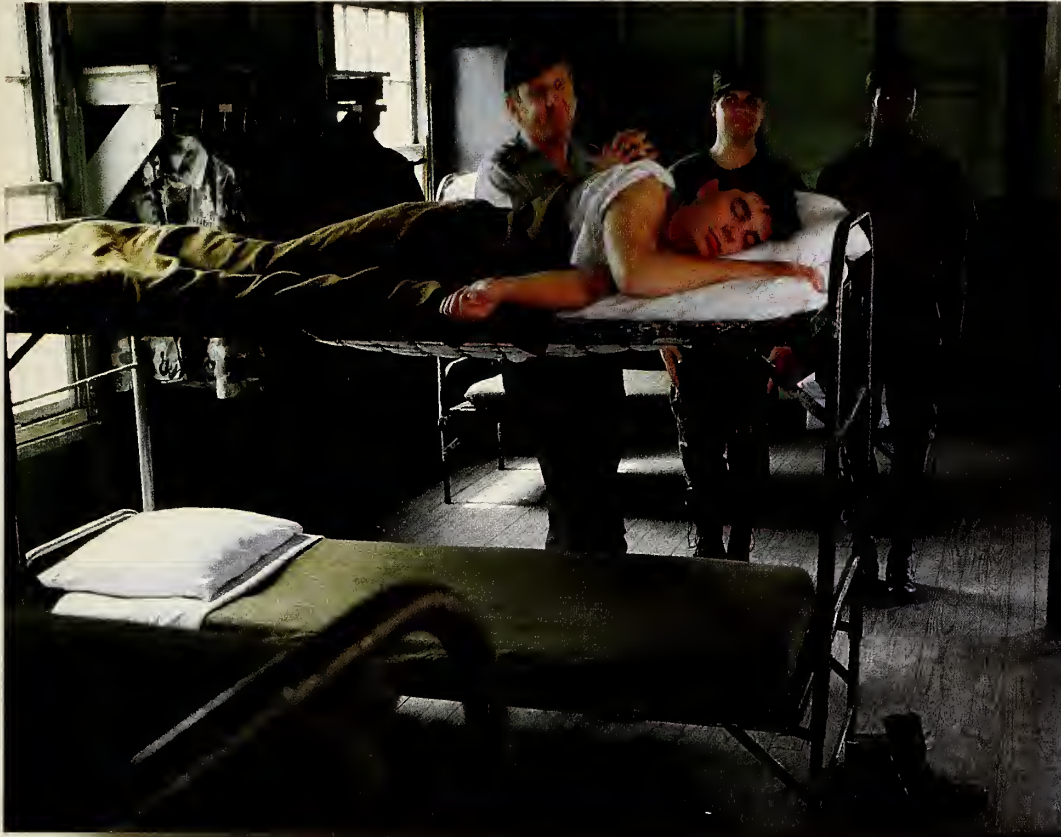
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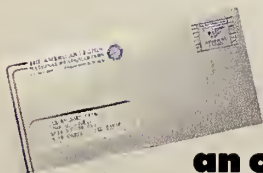
It's 0500 hours. You were up late. So you just roll over and drift back into a peaceful sleep. After all, it's a free Country. Right?

Most people have never tried to explain to a drill sergeant why they decided to "sleep in" when everyone else was working. If they tried it, they would learn something real fast . . . there are times when discussion about personal freedom is not appropriate.

Some would have us believe that there are no obligations to citizenship in a free Nation. That personal freedom is everything. But as you think about renewing your membership this year, consider this:

As veterans, we once gave up all our personal freedoms to defend the rights of others. We were separated from our families for years. We experienced the terror and pain of watching friends fall in combat.

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## Mad As Hell

Right now, just as millions of other Americans, I'm mad as hell over the savage murder of Marine Col. Higgins. If we don't punish these barbarians in some decisive manner, we might as well pack up and sell out our world leadership. I remember how those former POWs told of cheering when the B-52s plastered Hanoi. Most of our guys were more than willing to take their chances on getting sideswiped by one of our bombs, if only to see the United States defending its right, for once!

*Philip C. Clarke  
Greensboro, N.C.*

## Corrections

I noted in the July issue an error in the address of Mrs. C. Malone, National Secretaire-Cassiere of the Eight and Forty. The address should have been 4325 S. W. Fifth Terrace, Miami, FL 33134.

*Billy Anderson  
Miami, Fla.*

In July's "How To Claim Your VA Benefits," you erroneously stated pensions are not payable to a veteran or surviving spouse whose annual income exceeds \$6,463, and \$8,466 for a veteran or surviving spouse with dependents. Those two figures apply only to the veteran.

*Bob Wamble  
Blytheville, Ark.*

The "Battle Report: Normandy" article (June) incorrectly identified Sgt. Curtis Culin's unit. He was in F Co., 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, not the 2nd Armored Division.

*Louis Drastal  
Vineland, N.J.*

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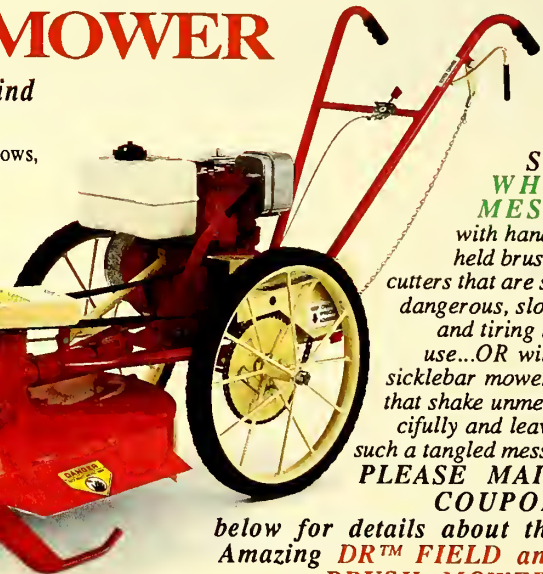
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## OPINIONS

*In the May issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, we asked you if you trusted the Soviets more now than you did five years ago. An overwhelming 84 percent of you said you do not trust the Soviets more.*

*Many cited Soviet doctrine and actions of Soviet leaders as reasons for mistrust. Many "no" responses also said the policies of glasnost and perestroika only were ploys to lull the United States while the Soviets seek world domination.*

*Conversely, 16 percent of you said the Soviet reforms and Gorbachev are changing the Soviet Union for the better and that you trust the Soviets more. Some of the "yes" responses said the Soviets have abandoned pursuit of world domination because of their economic problems and their desire for peace. However, most of the "yes" answers advised the United States to maintain a strong defense.*

*Your views are excerpted below.*

I trust the Soviets more, not because of Gorbachev, but because of the Soviet people. As our contact with the Soviet people increased during the past five years, we have learned that they desire "mir" (peace) as much as we do.

*John MacPhail  
Sebring, Fla.*

Americans in their protected cocoons and short memories tend to forget that the Soviets have a history of untrustworthiness and a very sad international treaty track record. Circle the wagons, boys. That scout up there on the mountain isn't smoking a peace pipe.

*George M. Haddad  
Franklin, Mich.*

To understand the Russian mind, someone once wrote, is to understand that Russians have no word for perjury. If you are talking to a Russian and he lies to you and you believe him, to the Russian, the fault lies with you, not him. He expects you to be astute and educated enough to know what is the

truth and what is not. The five-year plan is five years of open friendship toward the West, in which the Soviets will entrap us, lie to us and coddle us. This will be followed by five years of hostility in which the Soviets will crush us and attempt to take us over.

*Francis McBride  
Chambersburg, Pa.*

Let's put some faith in what Gorbachev is doing. We have the greatest Navy, Army and Air Force in the world. I cannot believe this fear is being expressed today.

*Martin L. Coldren  
Wernersville, Pa.*

Remember Pearl Harbor.

*Julio C. López  
Cataño, Puerto Rico*

Despite the reforms of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, the Soviets' basic doctrine is still the same: consume the world like a slow-eating cancer.

*Dick Schramm  
Spartanburg, S.C.*

Has any Soviet leader ever repudiated Nikita Khrushchev's boast, "We will bury you"?

*Gerald C. Hollis  
South Haven, Mich.*

Trust, but verify! We should continue to negotiate with each other so that the East's and West's conventional weapons are on par with each other. We should continue to permit surveillance of each other's armaments.

*David Saltman  
Wantagh, N.Y.*

I do trust the Soviets more than I did five years ago. But there is a flip side to this question. Can we get the Soviets to trust us? They obviously fear us as much as we fear them. Exaggerating the Soviet threat has caused us to undertake a disastrous foreign policy in Iran, Vietnam, Cuba and Nicaragua. Instead



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## OPINIONS

of sitting around and wondering whether Gorbachev is sincere or not, we should seize the initiative and counter him with even broader proposals to see how far he is willing to go. Even if Gorbachev fails, at least the rest of the world will see that we tried to bring about peace.

*Thomas Kearney  
Hicksville, N.Y.*

The Soviets have yet to destroy the Berlin Wall dividing Germany.

*Harry R. Wilson  
Lowell, N.C.*

The current Russian tactics seem to be copied from a war manual: Appear weak on the front, build up your flanks, then when the enemy is sucked in, close on his rear and hit him from all sides.

*Ed Gainwald  
Stuart, Fla.*

The Soviets tried pounding on the front door of the world to achieve acceptance: now Gorbachev is trying the back door, with flowers.

*Fred W. Stine  
Stroudsburg, Pa.*

Destruction of freedom and democracy is the policy of the Soviet Union, and it continues to this day; for example, the liquidation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The religious leaders were arrested and the church properties were confiscated and turned into warehouses, barns and museums.

*Peter Terrebetzky  
Maspeth, N.Y.*

Gorbachev, without doubt, is the most intelligent, and perhaps most resourceful, Soviet leader of our lifetime. He knows Soviet military strength and influence has been stretched to their limits, which places a tremendous economic burden on the rest of his nation.

Remember, the Soviet Union has one

distinct, unmistakable, undeniable advantage over the West. Soviets know that no matter what their military advantage, they will not be attacked first. Without the instinctive fear of having to defend against a first strike, and retaliate, not only do they have a clear military advantage, but they are absolutely unconstrained to pursue their objective in whatever manner seems proper for the time and circumstance. Time is in their favor, and they can afford to be very, very patient.

*David L. Snell  
Lancaster, N.H.*

Gorbachev is the most dangerous communist of all time. He has created cracks in the NATO alliance which he continually probes and widens; he diminished our nuclear deterrence capabilities in Europe; and he re-established contact with communist China.

*Durwood B. Hatch  
Altoona, Pa.*

I haven't trusted the Soviets since I learned how to read. And these remarks by Gorbachev on the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, Nov. 2, 1987, still leave me with no trust: "We are moving toward a new world, the world of communism. We shall never turn off that road."

*Joseph F.X. Mullane  
Bayonet Point, Fla.*

We must remain a major power and a deterrent for communist domination worldwide. No matter what Gorbachev says or does while he is the major player in Russian politics today, the methods may change, but the goal is still world domination. There is a gallant lady that stands with her torch of freedom glowing in the night, with a garland of lights above her brow, who sent shivers up and down my spine when my troopship sailed past her out of New York harbor to an overseas assignment many years ago. I don't want her replaced with a statue of Lenin.

*Raymond E. Couch  
Farmington, N.H.*



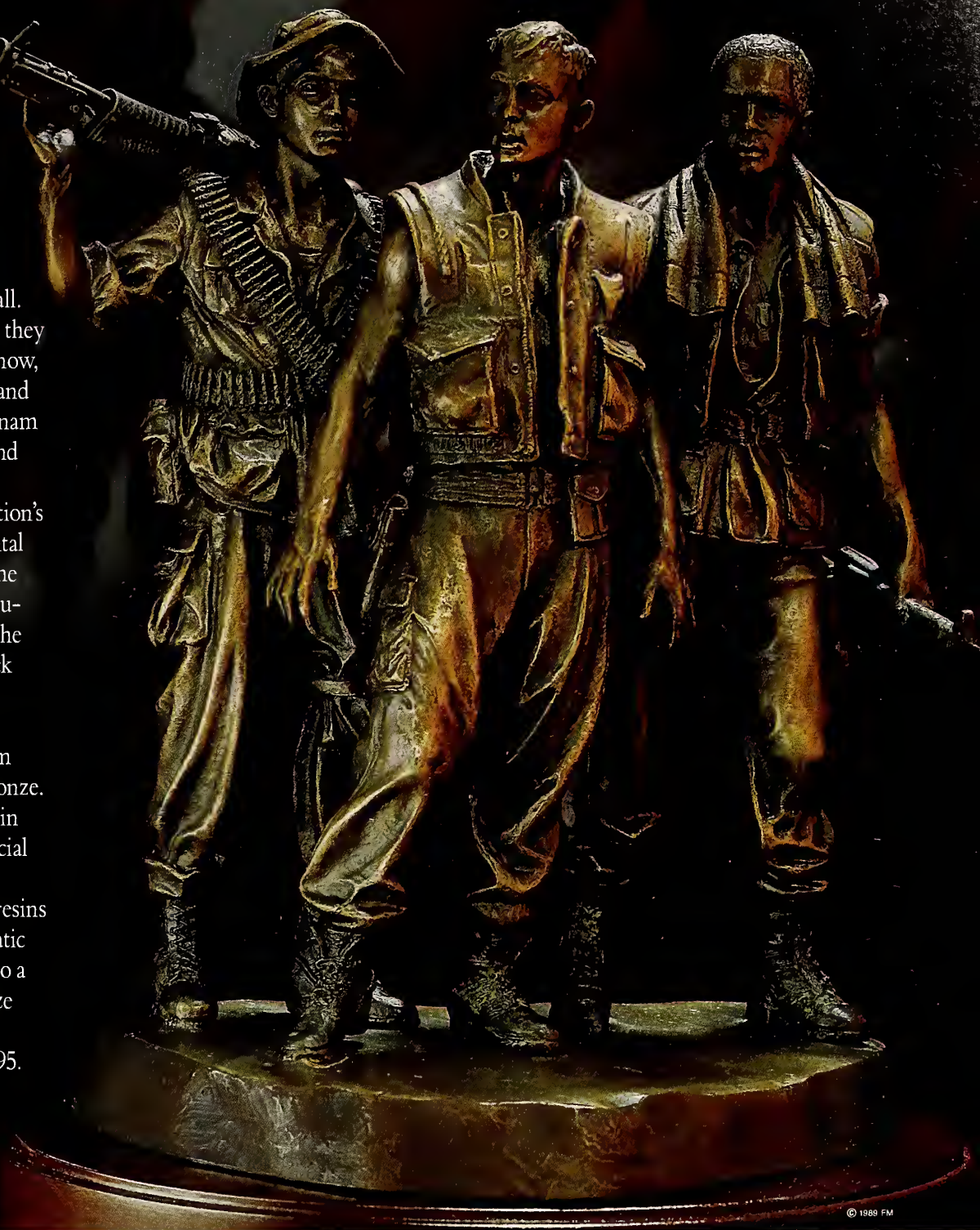
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## SHOULD CONGRESS ESTABLISH A WAITING PERIOD FOR HANDGUN PURCHASES?

**Rep. Edward F. Feighan, D-Ohio**

The level of violence in our society has risen dramatically over the last several years. We have seen innocent citizens gunned down in the streets; children at risk in school or at the playground; adults threatened in their workplaces; and elderly Americans frightened and feeling trapped in their homes.

# YES



The drug epidemic is responsible for many of these crimes, but we can't ignore the fact that easy access to handguns is fueling the drug trade. Twenty years ago, Congress banned the interstate sale of handguns and forbade criminals, drug addicts and those the court has judged mentally incompetent from purchasing handguns. But the only enforcement of this law is the honor code. No background check. No waiting.

John Hinckley violated this honor system by lying about his criminal record and address when he purchased a handgun in a Dallas pawn shop. President Reagan and his press secretary James Brady found out how poorly the honor system works.

During this Congress, I have re-introduced the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, the "Brady Bill," named in honor of James and Sarah Brady. The bill would require that gun dealers wait seven days so that local law enforcement can conduct a background check on all purchases. In the event that a check is completed sooner than seven days, the waiting period would be waived as soon as the gun dealer is notified. The bill does not require a background check, but it allows law enforcement time to run one. Every major law enforcement organization has supported this legislation.

Last Congress, the House passed legislation, authored by Rep. Bill McCollum of Florida, requiring the Attorney General to conduct a study to determine how to prevent felons and other prohibited persons from purchasing firearms. The Department of Justice Task Force is considering two systems: a Firearms Owners Identification card issued after a very thorough background check that would take four to six weeks, or an instant check of all firearms purchasers by phone, computer or fingerprint scan. I support the study but meanwhile, we need a waiting period.

We need to toughen laws, put more convicts behind bars and give law enforcement the tools to ensure that convicts cannot easily purchase lethal weapons. ☐

**Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Florida**



# NO

The Brady Amendment requires a licensed gun dealer, importer or manufacturer to wait seven days before selling any handgun. The seller must send, within 24 hours, specified information about the purchase to the chief local law-enforcement official. If the official does not object, the purchase shall be completed with the owner taking possession.

When the local law enforcement official receives the information about the handgun purchase, the waiting-period provision does not require the official to take any action. If he does nothing, the handgun transfer takes place after the seven-day period ends. However, the official may conduct a background check.

The McCollum-Staggers substitute amendment directs the Attorney General to develop an identification system that will allow immediate and accurate background checks on all convicted felons attempting to purchase handguns. The amendment also requires that parole or probation be revoked for any individual who is caught in possession of a firearm while out of prison.

A seven-day, national background check, which could be used to deny a citizen the opportunity to purchase a handgun, must be highly accurate, reliable and expeditious. The current record-keeping systems of the FBI were not designed to serve as sources of information for investigations of this nature.

It must be remembered that the overwhelming majority of background checks performed as a result of this provision would involve citizens with no criminal records. Studies reveal 80 percent of more than 1,800 felons interviewed admitted to obtaining their handguns through friends or theft. Therefore, before imposing a procedure on the American people which encourages investigations into their past, we must be certain that these investigations are feasible and highly reliable.

Attempting to reduce violence by restricting handgun purchases of individuals likely to commit crimes is an idea with great merit. The waiting-period proposal is intended to

be a significant contribution to this effort. But without quick and accurate background checks, the Brady Amendment is largely a hollow legislative gesture. ☐

### YOUR OPINION COUNTS, TOO

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# A FLAG FOR THE SHERIFF

By Robert E. Mims

**S**HERIFF Harry Jones of northern Utah's Davis County fumed after hearing the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled flag burners had a constitutional right to desecrate Old Glory.

When a local newspaper called him the day after the court's decision, he didn't mince words. Asked what should be done with those who torch the national ensign, he replied: "They probably ought to be taken out and horsewhipped!"

"I don't want to come across as being some kind of radical, but I just speak my mind on the issues of family and country," Jones said. "I feel the country has the right to protect what is sacred, and the flag is a sacred symbol."

After his comments, the sheriff received an anonymous letter containing a tiny, scorched flag pinned to a tag labeled, "First Amendment." The action outraged many in the rural, conservative county, and Legionnaires of Post 87 in Layton were moved to action.

"That goes against every principle we believe in. The whole American Legion philosophy is based on that flag," said Post Cmdr. Robert Zamora, who served in Vietnam with the 552nd Air Force Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing.

With District 2 Cmdr. Richard

Loomis' blessings, Post 87 presented Jones with a 5-by-8-foot flag. The sheriff, moved by the gift, signed the Legion's nationwide petition seeking a constitutional amendment prohibiting physical desecration of the U.S. Flag.

During the presentation, the 59-year-old sheriff reminded Legionnaires that the flag had led Americans in times of conflict. "She is our blood, our body and our soul—an honorable, dedicated lady of service and loyalty."

For Jones and Zamora, reverence for the flag has deep, personal roots. Zamora recalls his many comrades who died during his eight tours in Vietnam; Jones remembers his brother-in-law, Gerry Gingras, a World War II veteran who died last year.

Gingras, who was in a Japanese prison camp for most of the war following the fall of the Philippines, "loved that flag, just like the others who fought for it and sometimes faced certain death," Jones said.

"Many thousands of men and women laid down their lives for the flag. To a people who derive all their freedoms from the extreme sacrifices of veterans, burning the flag is beyond imagination," he said.

Jones, who spent 27 years in the FBI before joining the sheriff's department, didn't serve in war, but he said the support of Post 87's 217 members has reminded him of the debt he and the nation owe to America's soldiers.

His flag will decorate the foyer of the new county sheriff's office, scheduled for completion in September 1990. Until then, the banner has a place of honor on the electric organ in his home.

"I'm certainly appreciative of the sacrifices made by these men, and by people I knew who died in Vietnam," the sheriff said. Jones is convinced that most Americans know the hypocrisy of using the First Amendment as an excuse to desecrate the symbol of hard-won constitutional rights. He also said he worries about the future of a nation that has grown complacent regarding its freedoms.

"We have been catering to the irresponsible, to the treasonous, to those who want to destroy us," Jones said. □



**TIT FOR TAT—**After two burned flags were sent anonymously to Sheriff Jones, Post 27 presented him with a new one. Holding one of the burned flags is District 2 Cmdr. Loomis; right is Post Cmdr. Zamora.

But within a week, Jones' nemesis struck again. This time a large envelope slipped under his office door contained another burned flag, but with a type-written note attached. The culprit, who signed his name, "John," wrote that "some people do not feel America is as great as you think it is."

Jones winced and said, "The whole country is succumbing to the attitude that nothing is sacred anymore. We're decaying inside. This flag burning is a symptom of a bad disease."

*Robert E. Mims, a free-lance journalist from Salt Lake City, Utah, is a former AP editor and writer.*





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
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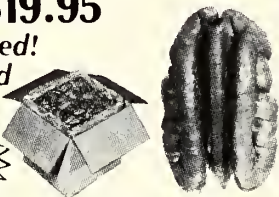
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## COMMENTARY

# THE VETERANS' EDGE

*Veterans' Preference requires that veterans be given hiring priority in federal, state and local government jobs. It's partial payment for their sacrifices.*

**By Dr. Basilla E. Neilan**

**A**FTER each major war in which this country was involved, Congress has enacted legislation to provide varied benefits to the men and women returning home.

With time, some of these benefits have diminished or disappeared, and remaining benefits constantly are threatened by those who all-too-soon have forgotten the sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

One such benefit that is repeatedly attacked is veterans' preference, which mandates that veterans receive hiring priority in federal, state and local government jobs.

I have received many letters calling for withdrawal of this benefit. In each case, I have urged the writer to consider the price that many veterans paid for us. We often have meager ways of showing gratitude to those who served when freedom was challenged. Would we deny them the career opportunities they had to postpone or forfeit when they marched off to serve our country?


I find it hard to sympathize with people who complain about veterans getting preferential treatment on Civil Service exams. Veterans' preference is just partial payment for what they gave up so the rest of us could live in free-

dom, expressing our right to free speech like the letters I receive.

What about the economic loss that veterans experience when they are called away from decent paying jobs to serve three years or more defending our country? They certainly don't earn as much when they are seamen or privates. What about the veterans who stopped a bullet or carry mortar fragments inside them for the rest of their lives? Don't we owe them something special? If you ever want to know how lucky you are, spend a few minutes visiting a veterans' hospital.

Can you imagine how many people would go on strike today if all they got for their work was a paycheck; if there were no fringe benefits such as pension plans, or no medical and life insurance benefits? Veterans' preference is a fringe benefit for honorable service, and it's still a whole lot less than what veterans deserve.

America's veterans are sorely mistreated, especially those who fought in Vietnam. Thousands of Vietnam veterans are wandering the streets without jobs. In despair and grief, some have turned to crime and are serving prison sentences. Many others suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Agent Orange problems. They continue to pay for an unpopular war they were ordered to fight.

Despite the mistreatment and the hardships they have endured, veterans also seem to be among the first Americans to proclaim that they owe this country everything. I say Uncle Sam owes our veterans everything, and then it still won't be enough. 

*Dr. Basilla E. Neilan is vice president, consultant and senior lecturer of Positive Alternatives For Youths Inc. based in Tennessee.*



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# A MATTER OF TRUST

**W**HEN Richard Plume returned from the battlefields of World War I, his future looked grim. With a left leg crippled by machine-gun bullets, Plume faced a lifetime of pain and financial gloom as he tried to support a wife and child on a meager \$45 a month disability pension.

When 11-year-old Elizabeth Keiger's father didn't come home from the war, that marked the beginning of a string of sorrows she experienced in the ensuing years. The girl and her mother lived hand-to-mouth; later, the mother was diagnosed as having terminal cancer. Richard Plume, Elizabeth Keiger and thousands of Americans like them who suffered the aftermath of war are why The American Legion Endowment Fund was created.

"The fund is a perpetual trust that is used to rehabilitate disabled veterans and to help care for orphaned and needy children of veterans," said Past Nat'l Cmdr. Robert Charles Smith of Louisiana, who serves as president of the fund's corporate board of directors. "The American Legion could end tomorrow, but this special trust fund would continue to help the needy."

The fund was established in 1925 with \$5 million donated by Legionnaires in less than a year. That initial seed money has now yielded \$17 million in transfers to the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and child welfare programs, and transfers continue at a rate of nearly \$600,000 per year.

"It was strictly a grassroots effort," Smith said. "But it wasn't just a Legion endeavor. Communities also got involved and showed their concern for disabled veterans and war orphans." Joining forces with the Legionnaires was President Calvin Coolidge, who served as honorary chairman of the fund drive. Eventually, President Herbert Hoover, Gen. John J. Pershing, William Randolph Hearst, Ethel Barry-



PNC Robert Charles Smith

*'The Endowment Fund carries out an American Legion founding promise to serve those who served.'*

•••••

more and industrialist Andrew Mellon also lent their support.

In the early years, the fund helped finance physical rehabilitation programs for WWI disabled veterans and employment-vocational projects of the Legion's Rehabilitation Committee, forerunner of the VA&R Commission. It continues to serve disabled veterans today through the Legion's vast network of services, which include assisting and representing veterans with claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Board of Veterans Appeals and maintaining VA&R field offices that monitor the quality of medical care provided to veterans in VA medical facilities.

The fund also is used to continue

Legion participation in VA's Voluntary Service program, in which Legionnaires each year donate more than 1 million hours helping disabled veterans in hospitals or confined to their homes.

"Those who gave the most are well served by this trust," said the late PNC Harry W. Colmery, a longtime president of the Endowment Fund. Colmery also is remembered as the author of the GI Bill of Rights, which expanded and created many of VA's medical and rehabilitation programs.

There was an equal concern about the children of those killed fighting in the war. At the end of World War I, there were about 30,000 American war orphans and that number continued to grow as many veterans died from war-related injuries. In addition to veterans' children, the Legion also extended assistance to needy children.

The Endowment Fund was instrumental in supporting veterans' children and other programs of the Legion's Children's Welfare Committee, predecessor of today's Children and Youth Commission. In the 1920s, various Legion Departments established regional billets to care for orphaned and abandoned children of veterans. Many Legionnaires and Auxiliary members readily volunteered to serve as foster parents, often legally adopting the children. One of the first children's homes to open its doors was at Otter Lake, Mich.

The successes of the Legion over the years for disabled and needy veterans and veterans' orphans have been many, but the work is far from complete. The Endowment Fund and its good works thrive because Legionnaires always have been willing to contribute generously to those who are less fortunate.

"The Endowment Fund carries out an American Legion founding promise to serve those who served," Smith said. "It's a cause that spans generations; for suffering knows no time limits."

Tax-deductible contributions may be mailed to The American Legion Endowment Fund Corp., The American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □



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# B R I L L I A N T P E B B L E S

By Philip C. Clarke

**J**UST when the critics thought they had grounded the Strategic Defense Initiative, developers of the proposed space shield against nuclear missile attacks have introduced a promising, new concept designed to protect the entire Free World.

Called "Brilliant Pebbles," the system would consist of several thousand small, space-based interceptor satellites floating in different orbits. They would be activated on command from Earth at the moment the Soviet Union or any other aggressor launched a missile attack. Each interceptor would have its own heat-seeking eyes to track the fiery plume of an ascending ballistic missile. Within seconds, the interceptors would zero in and destroy the missiles with the simple force of impact, which physicists call kinetic energy.

According to former SDI director Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, the Brilliant Pebbles concept could be developed in two years and deployed three years later for less than \$10 billion. Adding the cost of command and control, and fail-safe communications, Abrahamson said the system could be operational at a cost of \$25 billion over the next five years.

The new director of SDI, Lt. Gen. George Monahan, says that Brilliant Pebbles has excellent potential to reduce costs.

The system represents a breakthrough for American scientists in the technologies of miniaturization and computerization. As originally conceived, SDI's space-based interceptors



**KINETIC ENERGY—The Brilliant Pebbles interceptor would destroy ballistic missiles simply by impact.**

would have been huge and costly. In fact, they were called orbiting "buses," each containing a cylinder loaded with heat-seeking rockets called "smart rocks." Thus, their smaller and more sophisticated successors are dubbed "Brilliant Pebbles."

The new concept would not be the "perfect umbrella" envisioned by some people, but it would serve as a partial first-stage defense. By circling the globe, Brilliant Pebbles would be capable of protecting allies in Europe and Asia, as well as the United States.

CIA officials report that more than a dozen Third World countries already are in the early stages of developing ballistic missiles, which by 2000 might be capable of delivering chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons to targets hundreds of miles away.

Despite such clear and increasing dangers, opponents of SDI insist there is no scientifically conceivable way to protect the United States from a missile attack and that our only deterrent is the

capability to survive and counterattack. But SDI's scientists and engineers are proving the critics wrong. Last April, the SDI Organization successfully ground-tested the first powerful anti-missile laser weapon capable of destroying incoming warheads. In the secret test conducted at a California plant of TRW Inc., the \$250 million laser, known as Alpha, produced 2.2 million watts of energy for one-fifth of one second. If deployed in space, Alpha would take only a matter of minutes to destroy enemy missiles in flight.

A prototype is scheduled to be launched in 1994 as part of the \$1.5 billion Zenith Star experiment.

Unlike larger, chemical-laser devices developed earlier, Alpha is relatively light and compact, making it more adaptable to space deployment. It operates on hydrogen, and fluorine, a flammable gas that is the most reactive nonmetallic element known. In the Zenith Star experiment, the Alpha laser would be aimed at a 13-foot circular mirror that would focus and direct the beam toward distant moving targets. The crucial test would be whether the laser beam could be held on targets that flash through space at 18,500 mph.

America's vulnerability to ballistic threats was chillingly apparent during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. At a meeting last January in Moscow of U.S., Soviet and Cuban officials, it became clear that the United States, despite its then overwhelming nuclear superiority, did not have the capacity to preempt a Soviet nuclear attack from Cuba. That was 27 years ago.

Today, scientists and engineers involved in the six-year-old SDI program are convinced they can provide an effective defense to deter missile attack and end the suicidal nonstrategy of Mutual Assured Destruction. They point to America's inspiring Apollo program that sent 12 astronauts to the moon and back 20 years ago. Certainly, what we were able to do then, we can equal or surpass today. □

*Philip C. Clarke, a former AP correspondent, is an editor and free-lance journalist who specializes in national security issues.*



by Tom Lindemann

"You must have come into some money."

I said that to my friend Fred, innocently and with a little envy. He and his wife Janet had just come in to the dinner party.

Janet was wearing a pendant. It had a gorgeous blue gemstone big enough to choke a horse.

Fred knew what I was referring to. "6 carats," he said casually.



Blue Topaz seems to gather light. It's like wearing a piece of the sky.

### The Brazilian Connection

Janet was wearing a breathtaking Blue Topaz. I don't know if you have any idea how big a 6-carat gem looks, but this one was so perfectly faceted it looked even bigger than that.

"Your pendant is like a flawless piece of the sky. I can't take my eyes off it," our host said to Janet.

Much later, Fred told me the secret. He and Janet had bought the topaz direct from a secret "Brazilian Connection" — which meant he was able to get this lovely gem for far less than the normal cost.

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You know Calstar. As it turns out, we have a buyer in Brazil. Off he went to the topaz mines.

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*Actual photographs: The gem at left is a 12-carat aquamarine. Price: \$5,000. The gem at right is our 12-carat natural (not synthetic) Blue Topaz. Calstar's direct-to-you price: \$196. The piercing blue of genuine, blue Brazilian topaz has made this stunning gem a favorite of the rich and famous.*



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If the appraisal isn't for at least twice your price, send it back for a 100% refund. We'll even pay the return postage.

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1704-1



# Two Out Of Three Americans Support A Flag Amendment

**L**OST 22 good friends in Korea, and the red in the flag represents their blood to me . . . . The Supreme Court made a gutless decision, and it makes me mad . . . . Why would any sensible American want to burn the flag?" Such comments echo the feelings of the majority who responded to a Gallup Poll commissioned by The American Legion.

Of the 1,000 participants in the nationwide poll, 64 percent said they would support a constitutional amendment allowing the federal and state governments to make flag burning illegal; 33 percent said they would oppose an amendment; 3 percent did not offer an opinion. The poll was commissioned after the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision which ruled in *Texas v. Johnson* that the burning of the U.S. Flag is protected as free speech.

As the magazine went to press, the Legion was preparing to present Congress with signed petitions, urging passage of a constitutional amendment that would prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. Flag. Congress is considering legislation that would establish penalties for flag desecration; however, such laws could be reviewed by the nation's high court and declared unconstitutional.

Other questions and responses were:

*Do you believe that a constitutional amendment outlawing flag burning would place your freedom of speech in jeopardy?* 70 percent, no; 27 percent, yes; 3 percent, no opinion.

*If asked, would you sign a petition calling for a constitutional amendment to make flag burning illegal?* 66 percent, yes; 31 percent, no; 3 percent, didn't know or refused to answer.

Seventy-one percent said they owned a U.S. Flag, and 42 percent of those who did not, said they intended to buy one in the future.

The findings of the poll are consistent with similar polls conducted by other organizations in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling, Legion officials said. Speaking before the House Judiciary subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights late last summer, Past Nat'l Cmdr. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke said that the flag-desecration amendment would reflect the will of most Americans.



**FLAG POLL—Seventy percent of the Gallup Poll respondents said that a constitutional amendment outlawing flag burning would not place their freedom of speech in jeopardy.**

"The American Legion is fully committed to the passage of this constitutional amendment," Nat'l Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle said. "This initiative has the backing of the majority of our fellow citizens. It is a mandate from the American people."

Spanogle's statement reflected the opinions of many of those who participated in the poll. More than 95 percent of the participants said they reacted negatively after learning of the Supreme Court's ruling. Some of the observations include: "Flag burning

just makes me sick to my guts . . . . I believe in freedom of expression, but the flag should not be burned . . . . Is there some way to fire the Supreme Court?" Many of the people polled said that flag burning desecrates the memory of those who have fought and died for our nation's banner.

A minority of the respondents backed the court's decision and were equally vocal in their comments. "I was surprised the justices had the good sense to hand down such a ruling. Freedom of speech is protected," said one participant. Several people also indicated that the issue should never have been reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Of the 1,000 people polled, 51 percent were females. Most respondents were married and resided in the south-central and north-central regions of the country. Thirty-three percent said they were university graduates or held post-graduate degrees; 27 percent attended college; 32 percent were high-school graduates, and 8 percent had less than a 12th-grade education.

The 71st National Convention at Baltimore barely had ended when newly elected Nat'l Cmdr. Miles S. Epling began preparing testimony to be presented to congressional veterans' affairs committees. His remarks before the committees, other congressional groups, and administration officials also were expected to amplify the Legion's support for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag. (See Epling's comments on page 45.)

"This is not a partisan issue; it transcends politics," Spanogle said. "Our lawmakers cannot legislate patriotism, but they can legislate the proper and due respect that should be paid to our nation's most visible symbol — the American Flag." □

H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS



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# THE WAGES OF WAR

## JOBS for FIGHTERS



**LIP SERVICE** — Posters depicted government concern for WWI veterans, but jobs were scarce.

SINCE OUR FIRST  
WAR, AMERICA'S  
VETERANS HAVE  
BEEN SEEKING  
THE RESPECT  
OF THE SOCIETY  
THAT SENT THEM  
INTO BATTLE.

**E**ARLIER this year, a history of American veterans, *The Wages of War*, was published by Richard Severo and Lewis Milford (Simon & Schuster, \$21.95). Severo is a prize-winning writer for The

New York Times who first covered Agent Orange more than a decade ago; Milford was for many years an attorney with the National Veterans Law Center in Washington, D.C. The book makes startling disclosures about how veterans have been treated from just after the American Revolution through the post-Vietnam years. THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE asked Severo to summarize a few of the book's major findings, his impressions of where American veterans stand now, and what they might do in their own interests as well as the nation's.

Since the founding of this country, nearly 39 million Americans have served in wartime and more than a million of them have given their lives for their country. But all of them have given up something that, it might be argued, is as precious as life itself: their liberty, temporarily, so that the rest of us could continue to enjoy ours.

The nation already knows it would not exist without their sacrifices. It should also now realize that the warrior's homecoming has not been as

generous as it should have been; surely not as rewarding as many had supposed.

It is important, of course, to honor soldiers for their service in war. It is equally important for all Americans, especially those who have not served, to understand that veterans have struggled for more than 200 years to get not just necessary medical treatment and promised pensions, but respect and understanding from the society that sent them to do battle.

A perfect example of recent vintage is the Agent Orange affair following the Vietnam War. As outlined in *The Wages of War*, the facts show conclusively that government officials who were supposed to be objective about Agent Orange were biased and, in some instances, guilty of flagrant conflicts of interest. If Vietnam veterans cannot prove beyond a shadow of doubt what Agent Orange has done to them, it is because people within government made such proof impossible to obtain. The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, a government agency, first wasted the better part of \$100 million on studies that went nowhere, and then they said the studies couldn't be done. When principled men in government spoke out against such short-sightedness, they were either ignored or constrained by people within VA, DoD and the White House.

How do we protect veterans now and in the future from more of the same?



One approach is to learn the lessons of the past and use them to help solve the problems of the present, to deal head-on with what poet Walt Whitman called, the "savage wars of peace." Veterans, even the veterans of Vietnam who have most recently suffered the worst aspects of modern war, have never really wanted to discuss their abuse by those bureaucrats possessed with a misdirected zeal to save money, a zeal that probably has cost the government much more than it has saved.

Most veterans themselves frequently have little knowledge of the ordeal that soldiers of the past have been put through after their wars had ended. The wretched treatment given Vietnam veterans is not unique, nor is the lack of attention given to the Korean veterans.

What happened to veterans after the Spanish-American War was not too unlike what Vietnam veterans would experience eight decades later. And, in contrast to Vietnam, the Spanish-American War was quite popular. Starting in the spring of 1898, the Cuban campaign lasted for about 100 days on paper, but there was only a day's fighting of any consequence. But American troops contracted typhoid, malaria, yellow fever and dysentery. The government did not admit to any tropical diseases, however. As was the case after Vietnam, when veterans began to suspect their health was declining, the government maintained that nothing was wrong.

One official speculated that troops were really suffering only from "homesickness" and "nostalgia." It is unclear how government doctors could have mistaken the ravages of yellow fever or malaria for homesickness, but that is what happened. The government concluded that all they needed was a vacation in the fresh sea air of Long Island. So it arranged to send them to a makeshift hospital tent city at Montauk Point called Camp Wikoff.

**S**ICK troops got sicker coming northward on the *Concho* and the *Alamo*, two ships that carried foul water, not enough food and inadequate medicine. Many men died. Once at Camp Wikoff, there was more foul water and poor rations.

Both Surgeon General George M. Sternberg and Secretary of War Russell A. Alger continued to insist that nothing was wrong.

The soldiers who had volunteered to fight the Spaniards did not agree. They were hungry; more of them died. The Army had pine coffins ready but they weren't big enough and the limbs of the corpses were bent so that they could be jammed into the coffins. Alger, insisting nothing was wrong, said it was all a figment of the press' imagination. By later summer of 1898, the Army conceded that Camp Wikoff was rife with yellow fever and President McKinley belatedly ordered it closed.

When it was over, Alger put the

blame where he thought it belonged: on the soldiers themselves. "The whole trouble," he said, "has been in the volunteer troops not knowing how to care for themselves and carelessness in warding off disease." He did not say precisely what he thought soldiers were supposed to do to protect themselves against yellow fever, typhoid and malaria.

Maj. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee shrugged off the whole incident and in a 1901 report to the War Department he wrote, "Soldiers do not like sympathy; sympathy is for women and children."

Such sentiments characterize veterans' affairs in postwar America. The motivation behind them may be open to question, but the effect has been to make veterans feel guilty about their own illnesses and needlessly reticent about asking for help.

This country, indeed, has bought its wars on the cheap. In peacetime, the government has not hesitated to spend huge sums of money to bail out Chrysler and those mismanaged savings and loan associations. Such action was judged to be in the public good. In wartime, it has not flinched from paying interest to civilians who bought war bonds. But, with the notable exception of World War II, government has not even begun to pay the human cost of war to those who fought it. It has tended to say that patriotism is its own reward.

After the Civil War ended, 200,000 troops marched down Pennsylvania Avenue over a period of three days. Government workers stretched a huge canvas across the Capitol which said, "The only national debt we can never pay is the debt we owe the victorious Union soldiers." Maybe it was true, but they should have tried harder. Both Union and Confederate veterans were discriminated against in the workplace, blamed for crime waves, and accused of having a bad influence generally on the rest of American society.

Government should have tried harder. Although most veterans are doing well, it is unacceptable that a third of all the homeless in America are veterans and that half of those are Vietnam veterans. It is appalling that death rates in many VA hospitals are reported as "significantly elevated" over what they ought to be and that care in such facilities is widely regarded as substandard. It would be plain wrong if VA hospitals were not improved and if they could not handle both the geriatric needs of older veterans and tend to the



**A NATION'S REPLY**—Desperate veterans participating in the 1932 Bonus March on Washington, D.C., were greeted with tear gas.





**MOBILIZATION**—Members of Oklahoma's 45th Inf. Div. expected to be back in a year, but the National Guard unit fought in eight major WWII campaigns.

unhealed combat wounds of the younger ones.

Contrary to a lot of unvirtuous press releases coming out of VA and its predecessor agencies for too many years, a great many veterans have not received their due. Would it not be better, at long last, for all to know the truth? Would it not be better if more veterans of past wars spoke (and were heard by the media) about what happened to them after the shooting stopped, so that veterans of the future could put their experience in some perspective?

The veterans of World War I, for example, had no trouble recounting what they saw and did at Chateau-Thierry and in the Argonne Forest in 1918. But they said precious little about President Woodrow Wilson's failure to adequately plan for their return, to unequivocally guarantee them, at minimum, the jobs they had when

they marched off to fight the Kaiser's army. Few seemed to notice that World War I veterans suffered high rates of unemployment during the decade of the 1920s, when finding jobs was relatively easy for those who had stayed home. And few seemed to care that after the Stock Market crash of 1929 launched the Great Depression of the 1930s, such veterans were hardest hit. It is of little comfort that most veterans made their readjustment without help from anybody.

As a result of the neglect, as many as 40,000 veterans who had been unable to readjust and who had been in desperate straits since their discharge, participated in a Bonus March on Washington, D.C., in the late spring and summer of 1932. They were hungry men, many of them with their families in tow, and they buttonholed congressmen on the steps of the Capitol, demanding a bonus for valiant services rendered during World War I.

But for reasons that could not stand up to later scrutiny, President Hoover became convinced that the veterans

A

AMERICA

HAS ALWAYS SENT HER  
WARRIORS OFF WITH  
CELEBRATION, YET  
THEIR HOMECOMING  
HAS RARELY BEEN  
A WARM ONE.

were criminals or, even worse, radicals who wanted to topple the Government. An Army intelligence report, later found to be totally without substance, said that "the first bloodshed by the Bonus Army at Washington is to be the signal for a communist uprising in all large cities thus initiating a revolution. The entire movement is stated to be under communist control . . ."

If there were some communists  
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PAINTING BY MORT KUNSTLER (DETAIL)



## PRESIDENT BUSH DISCUSSES

# VETERANS, THE NATION, THE WORLD

*Citing the federal deficit as Public Enemy No. 1, the President addresses the many challenges facing America and what his administration plans to do about them.*

**American Legion Magazine:** Mr. President, you have called for cooperation in addressing “some very real problems” facing America. What are they and how do you intend to solve them?

**President George Bush:** Among these challenges are restoring fiscal balance to the federal government; advancing America’s global competitiveness; helping the needy, the aged and the ill; ending the scourge of crime and drugs; cleaning up the environment; making America’s schools No. 1 again; restoring respect for traditional values, including honor for those who have served America; and continuing the spread of freedom and democracy around the world.

I am addressing these challenges with policies that are based on certain principles:

I believe in using government to enable individuals to plot the course of their own lives consistent with the rights of others to do the same.

I intend to refocus attention on individual opportunity and responsibility—making people, and not bureaucrats, more able to determine their own destinies.

I also believe in making criminals responsible for their actions. I have recently proposed a broad anti-violent crime agenda that provides more revenues to catch lawbreakers, prosecute them and put them in jail.

As part of this emphasis on individual opportunity, I believe that America can rely more upon what I have called the Thousand Points of Light—the traditional neighborhood groups and civic organizations, like The American Legion—to promote traditional American values and to serve others, especially those in need.

One value that I believe we have too often neglected is the tradition of honoring those who served and sacrificed to preserve our freedoms. In a time of peace, America needs to honor its veterans more than ever—not just for their sake, but for sake of the country as a whole.

Finally, I will do all in my power to maintain a strong defense for America and her allies, and strong leadership for America in the world.

The times are especially ripe for bettering the prospects of peace and freedom through strength. The enemies of individual liberty are on the defensive. I intend to keep the pressure on and to marshal our resources to spread around the globe the new breeze of freedom.

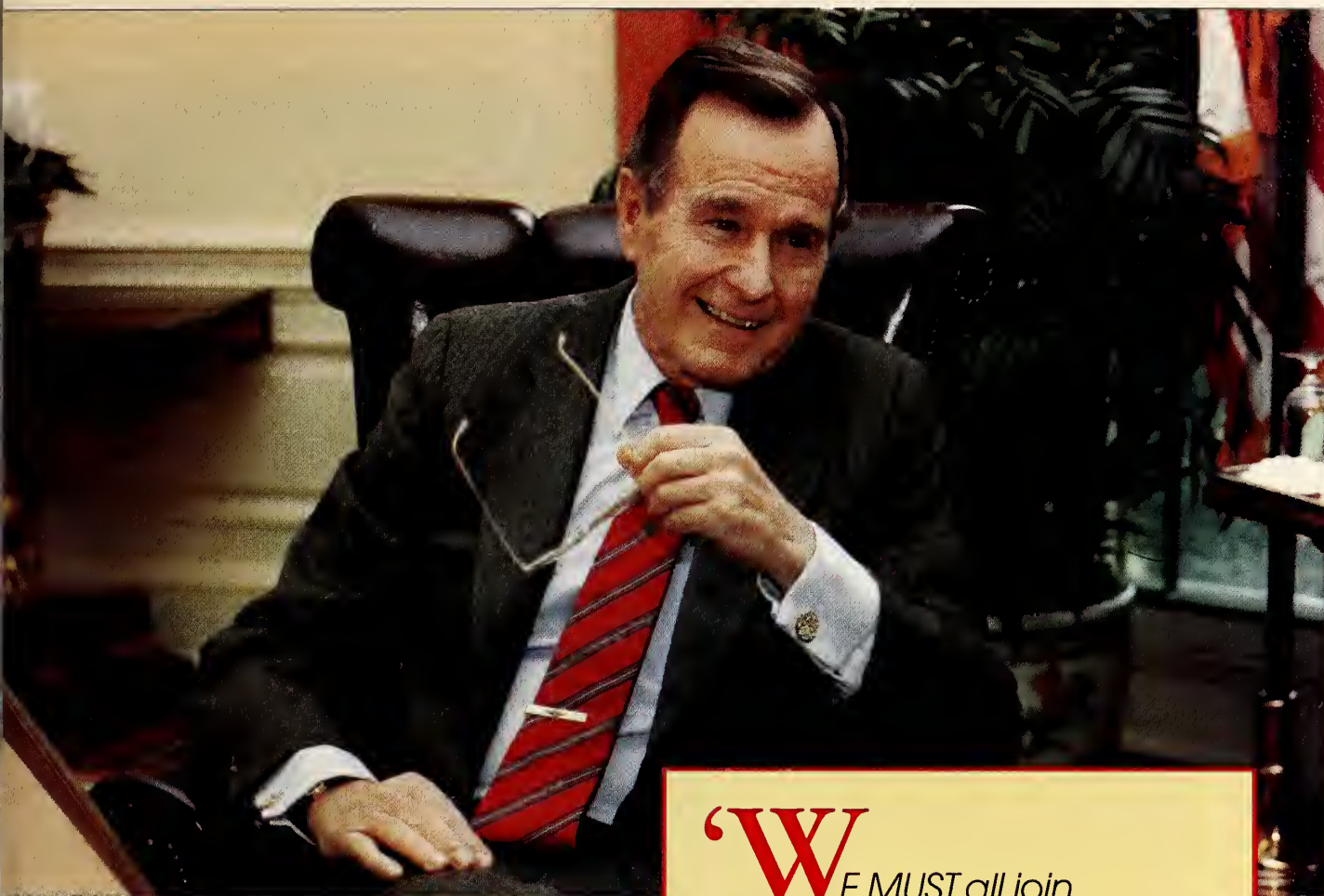
**Q.** As Vice President, you told *The American Legion’s 1988 Convention* that a President has no higher duty than to protect and enhance the national security of the United States. Does this mean you will fight to hold the line on an adequate defense budget, and do you feel you can win this battle in Congress?

**A.** We did not come this far in restoring America’s defenses to slacken our efforts or become complacent. The American people spoke quite clearly in the last presidential election on the need to continue maintaining our defenses as the best bulwark against the threats to peace in a dangerous world.

The recent, historic shifts toward freedom and democracy around the world are the ultimate proof that peace through strength works. This fact is evident to the American people, and, fortunately, it has not been lost on many in the Congress.

Thus, we must hold the line on an adequate defense





DAVID VALDEZ/WHITE HOUSE

**‘W**E MUST all join together to focus on the national interest rather than the special interests.’

budget. Certainly, as you noted, there is no higher duty for the President of the United States than to maintain and enhance America's security.

**Q.** What future do you see for the Strategic Defense Initiative?

**A.** I have long been committed to SDI. We are now researching, and will deploy when ready, a comprehensive strategic defensive system. In the negotiations on defense and space which accompany our strategic arms negotiations with the Soviets, our objective is to preserve our options to test and deploy SDI. Thus, if Congress supports sufficient funding for SDI, I believe strategic defenses can strengthen stability, and both U.S. and allied security.

**Q.** Do you feel Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is sincerely trying to promote better U.S.-USSR relations, or is he really attempting to get massive help from the United States to rescue his bankrupt system?

**A.** Whatever the motives of Mr. Gorbachev are, I believe that the historic improvements in U.S.-Soviet relations are not occurring because the leaders in the Kremlin want to do us favors. We have achieved these successes in large part because my policy, like the policy of my predecessor, is one of peace through strength.

My policy toward the Soviet Union is to move beyond containment. We want to see an end to the division of Europe, and we want to see it ended on the basis of Western values. We intend to join with the Western European nations in encouraging the process of change in the Soviet Union, pointing to the day when the Soviet Union will be welcomed

as a constructive participant in the community of nations. What we have witnessed in the success of this administration's first NATO summit was attained by years of vigilance and resolve. Because the West will remain strong, the Soviets will know that they can gain nothing by turning back to a more militaristic course.

**Q.** Why have you advocated co-production of the FSX aircraft with Japan?

**A.** I'm convinced that the co-development of this aircraft is in the strategic and commercial interests of the United States. In making this decision, my administration considered the effects on our trade, industrial growth and sensitive technology, as well as our strategic and foreign policies.

The FSX will benefit, not diminish, America's competitiveness in aviation. This aircraft will improve the basic F-16 design and will contribute to the security of the United States and our major ally, Japan. There will be no cost to the American taxpayer, and at the same time, the Japanese will improve their ability to carry their share of the defense burden.

The United States will have about a 40 percent work-share in the initial development stage of the aircraft, and we will have a similar share when the aircraft goes into production.

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*About 14 million Americans have escaped the hassles of traffic jams and punching clocks. They have become self-employed and now go to work without leaving home.*

# HOME

## Is Where The Office Is

By Lisa M. Stroud

**J**OHN Mulford used to commute 80 minutes a day to his job as the manager of a Knoxville, Tenn., steel processing plant. Now his trip to work takes less than one minute from his bedroom down the stairs to Mulford Enterprises Inc., his home-based steel brokerage business.

No longer a captive of the commuter crawl, the self-styled entrepreneur now spends his commuter time reading business journals, catching up on paperwork, prospecting for new clients or even vacationing.

Home may be where the heart is, but for 14 million self-employed Americans like Mulford, home also is where the office is.

"I should have done this 20 years ago," said 61-year-old Mulford, who

*Lisa M. Stroud, a free-lance journalist in Raleigh, N.C., left the corporate world after 15 years to begin a business at home.*

started his home business two years ago. "I am making more money than I ever made with a corporation, and my business is growing rapidly."

"Plaid-collar workers" is how Tom Miller of Link Resources, a marketing research firm in New York, describes these home-bound entrepreneurs.

Since 1978, the number of plaid-collar workers has more than doubled, and one of three new businesses is operated from the home, according to the American Home Business Association (AHBA) in Darien, Conn. This year home businesses will contribute more than \$100 billion to the U.S. economy. By 2000, AHBA estimated, one-third of the work force will work and play under the same residential roof, representing a whopping 28 million home-based business ventures.

"People are demanding more from life now," said Dorothy Denton, executive director of AHBA. "They're tired of the hassle of long commutes, they want to enjoy their homes and their lifestyles. There used to be a stigma

attached to working out of your home, but it's accepted everywhere now."

Working from home is not a new trend. Cottage industries thrived in agrarian America, but with the coming of the Industrial Revolution, home offices disappeared as workers began the commute from farms to urban factories. By the early 1980s, however, the homeward-bound trend was vogue again. Futurist author Alvin Toffler in *The Third Wave* (William Morrow, 1980) predicted the age of the electronic cottage—businesses in which high-tech work spaces and personal computers replace roll-top desks and manual typewriters, and workers exchange a 9-to-5 routine for the benefits of working from home.

Perhaps the explosion of home businesses can be partially explained by the proliferation of personal computers. With computers in about 17 million American households, purchasers quickly realized how easy-to-use and profitable the electronic box could be. Those who originally bought computers to play Pac Man or crunch figures for home budgeting became comfortable enough with microchips and modems to use them to generate income from home.

According to a survey conducted by Fuji Photo Film USA, the home-office worker constituted the fastest-growing segment of the computer market last year, accounting for an increase of 28 percent over the previous year. The report also said that more than a fourth of home workers use computers to operate their businesses.

**W**E BELIEVE corporate America has seeded the growth of home-office computer usage and home-based businesses, primarily because corporations are where people are exposed to computers," said Steve Solomon, general manager of Fuji Photo Film USA's computer media division. "People extend their workday in the home through the computer. They are starting part-time and full-time businesses, fueling the growth of home-computer use."

Although the number of males working from home is increasing, 57 percent of home workers are female, according to a study by Link Resources. Irmgard Castleberry is one of those women who turned to the homefront to discover success. She had been a Seattle claims adjuster for 10 years when she decided to start a bed-and-breakfast referral service from her





**WELCOME HOUSE MOUSE**—Home-based businesses are flourishing with the help of personal computers, now permanent fixtures in 17 million American homes.

sewing room on a part-time basis. Within two years, she left the commuter's world to operate her Pacific Bed and Breakfast Agency full time. The business has grown at least 20 percent every year since 1983.

In addition to corporate refugees, senior citizens have discovered there is life after retirement by working from home to supplement pensions and social security. Twenty percent of

home-based businesses have been started by retirees, according to AHBA. Among the popular careers for retirees are: management, high-tech, financial and communications consultants; income tax preparer; auditor; investment counselor; marketing specialist; appraiser; engineer; caterer; architect; photographer; antique dealer; and real estate agent.

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## GETTING STARTED

**I**F YOU are interested in starting your own home business, these organizations may be able to assist you:

- *U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)*. The SBA is a federal agency created to stimulate economic growth through small business. It publishes a Directory of Business Development Publications, a listing of business management publications.

A free copy of the directory may be obtained by writing SBA, Office of Business Development, 1441 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20416.

- *American Home Business Association (AHBA)*. This 28,000-member association was founded in 1986 to assist entrepreneurs in establishing home businesses. Annual membership costs \$75 and includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter *Home Business Line* and a copy of *Working From Home* by Paul and Sarah Edwards. The AHBA also offers a hot-line advisory service of experts and discounts for such items as group medical insurance, office equipment and car rentals. Write to AHBA, 397 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820, or call 800-433-6361 or 203-655-4380.

- *National Association for Entrepreneurial Couples (NAEC)*. The cost of annual membership is \$100 per couple and includes the quarterly newsletter *Corpreneurs*, a copy of *Working Together: Entrepreneurial Couples* by Frank and Sharan Barnett, and a variety of discount packages. The newsletter only is available for \$30 a year. Write to NAEC, P.O. Box 3238, Dept. A, Eugene, OR 97403 or call 503-341-6444.

- *Home Office Computing Magazine*. This magazine began as *Family Computing* in 1983 and has a circulation of 446,000. It provides technical guidance, business information and inspiration to home-business entrepreneurs. Write to Andrea Fullwood, Home Office Computing, 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.



# C E L L U L A R SLEUTHING

By Gary Turbak

**I**N the summer of 1987, terror ruled the borough of Queens in New York City, as woman after woman was raped at knifepoint in her own home. Authorities tried Victor Lopez, 46, for the crimes. Although several victims testified, the most telling piece of evidence proved to be a small piece of X-ray film filled with lines. After deliberating only a few hours, the jury convicted Lopez on 18 counts. "In my opinion," said the jury foreman, "[the X-ray] was the whole case."

What convicted Lopez—and a growing number of other felons—is a bit of forensic razzle-dazzle called genetic fingerprinting or DNA testing. The technique is not fingerprinting at all, but rather a high-tech way of linking evidence to the person who left it. The law enforcement community is euphoric about this discovery, but the potential for DNA testing goes far beyond crime fighting, and some civil libertarians are getting worried.

DNA testing begins with bodily evidence left by the criminal. Skin, hair, muscle, blood or semen (as in the Lopez case) are the most common remnants, but saliva, perspiration and urine may also be germane. Each of these samples

*Award-winning journalist Gary Turbak is a regular contributor to this and other leading general-interest magazines.*



*DNA testing may be the greatest breakthrough since fingerprinting, but is it an invasion of genetic privacy?*

.....

contains DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), the microscopic, genetic material that carries the blueprint for life. Because every human is genetically different from all others, each person's DNA is unique, except for identical twins.

Laboratory technicians split the DNA into fragments that arrange themselves in patterns. The result is a DNA print on X-ray film of 40 to 60 dark lines which look like the Universal Product Codes read by grocery store checkout scanners. Just as a fingerprint is unique to the person who made it, so too is the DNA pattern.

If a suspect's DNA matches DNA found at the crime scene, it's as though the criminal had signed his work. Not surprisingly, this new science has law enforcement people buzzing. "DNA

testing represents the biggest advance in forensics since fingerprints became an identification tool several decades ago," said John Hicks, deputy assistant director of the FBI laboratory. "This is an extremely important breakthrough, and we're very excited about it."

One reason for that excitement is the fact that cellular evidence is much more common at crime scenes than fingerprints. Also, a single hair or drop of body fluid may be all that's needed for DNA testing, and samples can be stored indefinitely. Theoretically, even a cigarette butt or sweaty sock could hold vital DNA clues.

Another advantage is that false matches are virtually impossible. "The chances of two people having the same DNA pattern are usually one in several hundred million and can be as high as one in a billion," said Karen Wexler, spokesperson for Lifecodes, one of three U.S. firms conducting commercial DNA forensics work. "And even laymen—such as jurors—can easily tell when there's a DNA match."

DNA testing was discovered in Britain, just in time to help police solve a pair of brutal crimes. In 1986, three years after the rape and murder of a teen-age girl, British police still had no idea who the killer was. Another crime that year appeared to be the work of the same man. In desperation, police turned to the fledgling science of DNA code matching, which had recently been perfected by geneticist Alec Jeffreys at England's University of Leicester. Jeffreys tested semen stains from both crimes and told police there was only one killer.



The events that followed were unprecedented in the annals of law enforcement. The police asked every man in the locality of the murders to provide a blood sample so that their DNA could be compared to the killer's. More than 4,500 men filed through makeshift clinics to provide blood, and those who did not become suspect. As the DNA dragnet drew tighter, a baker named Colin Pitchfork convinced a co-worker to give blood in his place. When friends leaked word of the switch, police arrested Pitchfork. His DNA matched the killer's, and authorities had their man. (The complete story of this crime and its DNA solution is told in Joseph Wambaugh's book *The Blooding*.)

As with the landmark British case, DNA testing in the United States is used primarily to help convict violent felons. For example, a bus driver in Washington state raped an elderly

woman afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. Because of her illness, she was unable to testify against him, but when confronted with a DNA match, the man confessed. The list of DNA-convicted felons is long—and getting longer—and of course the technology can exonerate as easily as it convicts.

DNA testing also has a multitude of other uses. Because DNA is inherited, testing can determine parentage with precision, which makes it extremely valuable in paternity suits. "In more than a thousand cases, we have yet to go

to court in a paternity suit," said John Huss, vice president of Cellmark Diagnostics, a DNA testing firm. "When confronted with the evidence, one litigant or the other invariably concedes." In addition, DNA testing can document animal bloodlines, verify the origin of urine samples for drug tests, and identify accident victims or war casualties, no matter how mutilated the body. It also can identify a predisposition for some inherited diseases.

It is, in fact, DNA testing's vast  
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**PERFECT CLUE**—If Sherlock Holmes were here today, he wouldn't have much need for his magnifying glass. DNA testing has revolutionized forensics.







ART STEIN

John F. McDonnell

AMERICA'S defense industry seems to be forever on the hot seat. If it isn't charges of fraud, overpricing or conspiracy, it's the threat of lost revenue from canceled or scaled-back contracts. In times of federal budget deficits and improved East-West relations, the industry is especially vulnerable as congressional proposals to reduce defense expenditures frequently gain favor.

In this exclusive interview, John F. McDonnell, chairman and chief executive officer of McDonnell Douglas Corp., cautions the nation not to be too hasty in reducing its military strength and discusses the defense industry's vital role in preserving America's technology lead.

**American Legion Magazine:** In this era of the Soviet peace offensive and threatened budget cuts, how is the defense industry doing?

**John F. McDonnell:** The defense industry is hanging in there. We are now in our fifth year of reduced defense authorizations. However, in terms of actual expenditures, we are in our second year. So in that sense, budget restraints haven't really hit the defense industry yet. But we all clearly see it coming, and we're going to have to cut back. What is not fully clear yet is exactly how much; but most defense com-

**UP AND DOWN—**The Marine Corps' Harrier II, co-developed with British Aero Space, is an example of technology sharing, which McDonnell encourages.

panies are starting to tighten their belt and getting ready to weather the reductions.

**Q.** Can the defense industry survive the cutbacks?

**A.** It can survive, but it is a question of how well. The defense industry has experienced cutbacks before, and each time it loses capability—and it takes time to build that capability back.

**Q.** It seems that individual companies often suffer because individual weapons systems are cut.

**A.** Clearly. You have to boil the budget down to specific weapon systems, and different companies get hit differently.

**Q.** The Soviet Union and the United States seem to compete in making major arms reduction proposals. What if our negotiators bargained with a big defense budget cut, like \$30 billion to \$50 billion. Would that have any substantial impact?

**A.** Obviously. It depends on how much *procurement* is cut. Annual procurement is about \$60 billion, or one-fifth of the total defense budget. So it's conceivable that there could be a \$30 billion overall cutback with a relatively small procurement reduction—although it's unlikely.



**Q.** Because manpower is the other big element, isn't it?

**A.** That's right. And our military is understandably reluctant to cut manpower.

**Q.** Do you believe Americans can rely on Mikhail Gorbachev's assurances of peaceful intentions when he talks about heavy mutual military cutbacks?

**A.** In a word, no—but let me expand on that. Even assuming he had all the best intentions in the world and was fully committed to them, there is no assurance that he is going to be able to help make that happen. He is not a unilateral leader in the Soviet Union; there is considerable dissension there in terms of these policies.

**Q.** So we would be well advised to maintain our defenses?

**A.** No question about it. In fact, I see this period as one of potential change and transition, but it is also a period where we have to be very cautious and not overreact to whatever happens.

**Q.** U.S. companies often enter into joint weapons development agreements with foreign nations and companies. How much of a threat does this pose to the security of U.S. high technology?

**A.** It all depends on how it is done. Frankly, I think it has been done relatively well. I don't believe that there have been any major losses of technology or transfers so far. Our best defense in technology transfer is to stay ahead, and my feeling is that, in general, we should continue developing new technologies and be willing to share our current technologies. I also think it is only through a willingness to cooperate internationally with friendly nations that we are going to be able to stay in a leadership position.

**Q.** That takes some fine tuning of the defense budget to ensure that research and development gets its fair share of defense outlays, doesn't it?

**A.** No question about it. Last year in DoD, there was serious consideration given to cutting back independent research and development and on that issue more than any

other, the industry took a uniformly strong position. Especially in a period of declining defense budgets, research and development must continue so that we will develop the next generation of weapons and keep the lead in technology.

**Q.** Defense contractors often have been accused of overpricing and making excessive profits from the government—such as the infamous \$900 toilet seats and hammers. How valid are these charges?

**A.** Invalid to a great extent. In terms of profits, all you have to do is look at the financial statements of defense contractors and compare them with commercial companies, and you find that, overall, defense companies earn less return than a comparable commercial firm. The overpricing charges involve particular examples taken out of context. Of much bigger potential benefit is the whole procurement system—in terms of trying to get that streamlined and made as effective as possible. There are billions and billions that can be saved in that area; whereas, trying to find particular items that are overpriced is not going to yield much.

**Q.** Are contractors reaping enough profit to reinvest in new plants, equipment and new armament systems?

**A.** At the current time, with the heavy investments in new programs and the profit levels that are available, that is a real question.

**Q.** Why, then, should a company even want to stay in the defense business?

**A.** Well, at McDonnell Douglas, defense is our business. We also, of course, supply commercial transportation and some information systems—but the core of our company is the defense business. It is not really a question of whether to stay in or not. We're in. It is the second and third levels of subcontractors who are vital to a healthy defense industry.  
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**PROTOTYPE**—Highly maneuverable and capable of short takeoffs, the Air Force F-17 demonstrator jet integrates several advanced fighter technologies.





# EUROCONOMY

## ALLY OR RIVAL?

*The European Community's common market becomes effective in 1992. While some U.S. observers are wary of the economic union, others see a stronger Western alliance.*

**By Peter S. Rashish**

**A**N economic superpower is in the making for 1992. That is when the European Community (EC) will lift all barriers to the free movement of goods, capital, services and labor between its 12 nations and 320 million people. The EC is the United States' most important trading partner, receiving 25 percent of U.S. exports and accounting for 40 percent of U.S. foreign investment. Its plan to create a single, internal market has caused American businessmen and political leaders to take notice.

Ever since the end of World War II, when the continent lay in ruins, American leadership has believed that a united Europe would prevent a repetition of Europe's costly wars. Yet a certain wariness greeted the 1992 EC plan. U.S. firms might not be able to compete on equal terms in the new European market, and the political implications of a united Europe in a changing East-West context are numerous.

*Peter S. Rashish, an author and consultant on European affairs, has worked for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. He is a member of the Europe 1992 Experts Group at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.*

While a certain amount of vigilance by the United States is justified, hostility is not. In any effort of this magnitude, there will be conflicts of interest, not only between Europe and America, but also among the 12 EC nations. However, American industry believes it will emerge a winner as Europe's markets are freed of regulations. And a strong and united European partner in the Atlantic Alliance will bolster Western security.

**W**HAT are the Europeans really aiming to do by 1992? Simply put they are hoping to realize goals established in the EC's "constitution," the 1957 Treaty of Rome. These goals include a customs union, in which goods are traded without tariffs or quotas between member states. More ambitiously, the Europeans want to achieve a true common market, where no economic barriers of any kind, however subtle or technical, can hinder economic transactions.

As it stands now, a plethora of regulations, commonly known as non-tariff barriers, restrict the ability of businesses of one EC country from doing business with the businesses of another. For instance, until recently the West Germans prohibited the sale of foreign beers in their country because no beers met the centuries-old *Reinheitsgebot*, or purity laws. Now that

those laws have been found to constitute an unfair barrier to trade, German consumers will find beer from all member countries on their stores' shelves.

The removal of such impediments to commerce in banking, manufacturing and transport will create the potential for enormous profits. According to opinion surveys of managers now working in the EC, the 12 national standards currently within the EC add an extra 20 percent to the cost of operating in Europe. Furthermore, the European Commission, the EC's executive arm, estimated that as a result of the 1992 measures, gross domestic product (GDP) in the EC could grow by an additional 7 percent, or \$312 billion; consumer prices could be 6 percent lower, and 2 to 5 million new jobs could be created.

Further down the road, perhaps by 2000, the Europeans also hope to arrive at a common currency and a central bank modeled on the American Federal Reserve. European Commission President Jacques Delors led a committee which recently produced a report outlining a three-step process to reach monetary conformity. One independent study found that after changing money from one currency to another throughout the 12 countries of the EC, only 53 cents would be left on every dollar. Thus, a single currency



will reduce business costs.

That's the good news: simplified regulations; one set of standards rather than 12; and no more controls on the movement of capital and labor; all leading to higher economic growth and greater profits. Still, one important question remains: Will American businesses be able to take advantage of the new barrier-free market?

More and more, the answer seems to be yes. A couple of hitches concerning local content rules and access to government procurement remain. But the trend is toward an open, non-discriminatory European market after 1992. As proof of the Europeans' willingness to open their market to foreign business, the EC has resolved two previously thorny issues: the procedures for setting standards, and the rules governing the operations of

**COMMON COINS**—*Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, already has plans for a single currency.*

foreign banks. American companies will now have a "seat at the table," as demanded by U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, when Europeans meet to devise new EC industrial standards. U.S. banks in Europe will be treated like domestic EC banks after 1992 as long as the United States agrees to "national treatment" of its financial institutions in the American market.

The EC may make it more difficult for U.S. companies without a manufacturing presence in Europe to compete on even terms if content laws are written to favor goods produced within the European Community.

This is particularly important in the lucrative government-procurement

market of telecommunications, energy and transportation, which accounts for nearly 15 percent of European GDP. Yet as a report published in May by a subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee conceded, "the United States is clearly in a position to influence the EC's decision-making process on local-content and rule-of-origin restrictions because some potentially troublesome directives ... have yet to receive final approval." If, as the report recommends, U.S. monitoring and negotiating efforts at the EC headquarters in Brussels are strengthened, in all likelihood remaining areas

of friction should be smoothed over.

*Please turn to page 62*

**WILL**  
**American**  
**businesses**  
**be able**  
**to take**  
**advantage**  
**of the new**  
**barrier-free**  
**market?**





## C A T A R A C T S

# A VISION QUEST

*For years a dreaded operation, cataract surgery today is treated mostly on an outpatient basis and the recuperation period is spent at home.*

**By Edward Edelson**

**M**ANY Americans still can remember the ordeal of cataract surgery. Twenty years ago, the operation required patients to stay in the hospital at least five days and to be fitted later for "Coke-bottle" glasses. The new glasses provided decent forward vision but left everything else a blur, often preventing the person from working or driving.

Compared to those days, cataract surgery today is a clear illustration of medical progress. Most cataract patients now arrive in the morning and are back home by late afternoon without the cataract and with a newly implanted plastic lens. Blurry vision may extend for several weeks as the eye adjusts to the implant, but the majority of people are able to read newspapers and drive cars before too long.

"Having been around for the old era, I think that the new one is unbelievable," said Dr. Dean Stetz of Columbia University's Harkness Eye Institute. "Patients today don't realize how

*Edward Edelson is a science writer whose articles appear frequently in this magazine.*

wonderful it is, because they don't have the contrast."

An enormous number of people benefit from the cataract removal procedure. A small percentage of cataracts are inherited or occur because of injury, but most are an inevitable result of aging. Because Americans are living longer, more suffer from cataracts. About a million cataract removals were performed last year and more are expected this year.

The cause of cataracts is largely a mystery, but ophthalmologists know exactly what is happening. Dr. Donald Sanders of the University of Illinois at Chicago likens cataract development to frying an egg: As the transparent egg white is heated, it becomes opaque. An egg white, which consists of proteins and water, turns opaque when heated because its proteins congeal. Human lenses also consist of water and protein, and the same process in a heated egg white occurs in almost every aging person's eyes, because the lens proteins somehow congeal, Sanders said.

Everyone will probably have cataracts by age 70, Sanders said, but not everyone will need to have a lens removed. The location, speed of cataract formation and loss of vision vary unpredictably from person to person. A small cataract or one that is not centrally located might not cause problems. However, when a cataract is



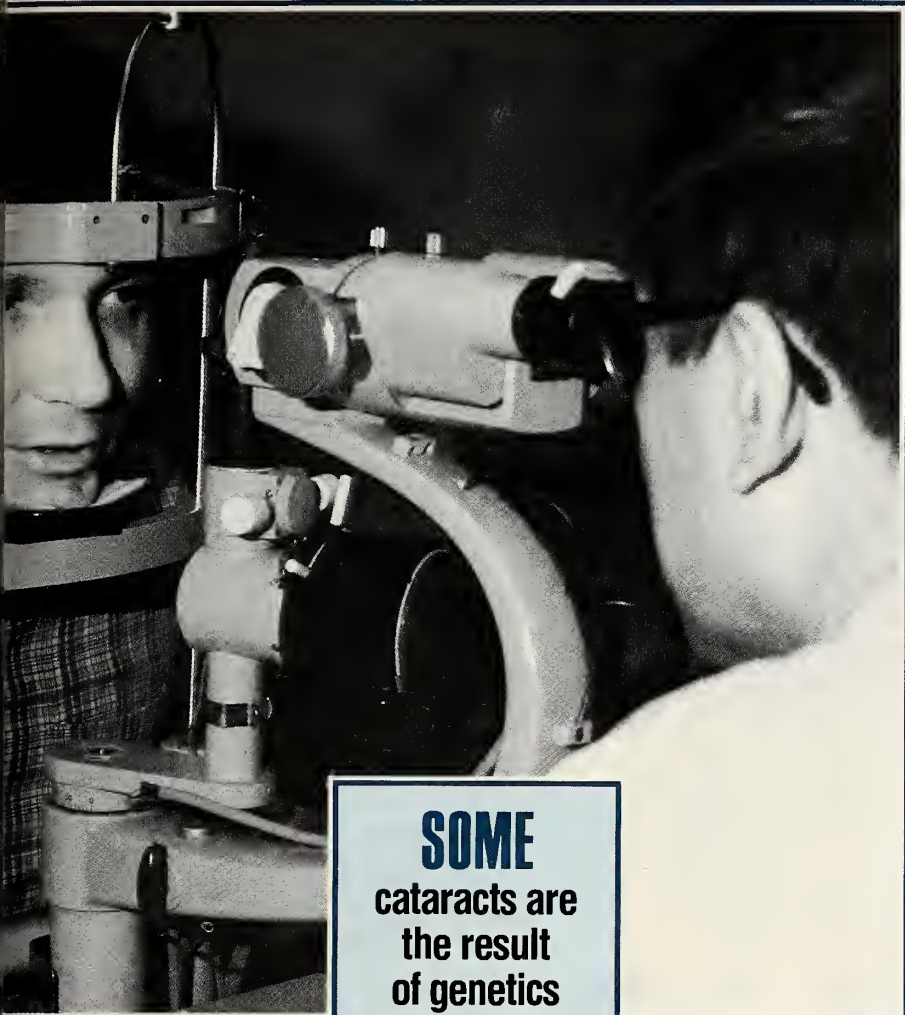
**CHECKUP**—A simple eye examination is all that is needed to determine the presence of a cataract.

large and in the wrong place, it can result in blurred vision, double images, distortion of lights and significant loss of vision in one eye. A simple eye examination can tell whether a cataract is present.

The only treatment is surgery. The revolution that has made the operation better for many patients has occurred in a series of steps, Stetz said. In the 1960s, surgeons made large incisions to remove the lens, and patients had to be immobilized during the operation. Today, the incision is much smaller—about a third of an inch long—and the operation, called extracapsular surgery, is performed with only local anesthesia.

"The lens is sort of like a pea inside the capsule that contains it," explained Dr. Ralph Helmsen, director of the National Eye Institute's cataract program. "You're moving the soft part of the pea out and leaving the harder material around it."





**SOME**  
cataracts are  
the result  
of genetics  
or occur  
because of  
injury. Most  
are the product  
of old age.



One common misconception is that lasers are used to remove cataracts. They are being tested as a way to break up cataracts, making them easier to surgically remove, but the tests are still experimental and the results aren't impressive, said Dr. Anthony Donn, head of the eye institute at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

However, some doctors use lasers to help open the eye for cataract removal. Laser light also can eliminate a common complication of cataract surgery, the growth of a vision-blurring membrane at the back of the capsule containing the lens. A brief burst of laser energy punches a hole in the membrane, restoring vision.

Freezing the lens to remove it, which was extensively used years ago, is now infrequently used because it also removes the hard shell around the lens. In 80 percent of the cases, the shell now is left in to allow implantation of a

permanent plastic lens immediately after lens removal. "The patient is watched for a couple of hours and then goes home," Stetz said.

Stetz said the short stay is the result of pressure from health-insurance companies. "Most of use fought it, thinking that patients would have terrible care unless they stayed in the hospital," he said, "but it turned out fine." Helmsen said Americans also learned a lesson from Third World countries such as India, where cataract patients line up for successful assembly-line surgery.

The implanted lens procedure developed slowly. Permanent lenses were first implanted in the 1950s, and the results were "almost uniformly disastrous," Stetz said. The lenses not only tended to come loose, but also got infected. Gradually, results improved as new lenses and different implantation techniques were tried.

Helmsen said doctors put the lens in the anterior (front) portion of the cap-

sule at first, but the lenses frequently slipped. "They have moved it back to the posterior chamber, and it seems to be working out better," Stetz said. Some older patients who have front lenses occasionally need a second operation to correct slippage. Also, the infection rate for implanted lenses is now down to 1 percent of cases.

The evolutionary path from thick glasses in the 1960s to contact lenses in the 1970s led to implanted lenses in the 1980s, Stetz said. Patients today still need glasses to supplement their implanted lenses, which are available in two varieties: one focused for distance vision, the other for reading. Most people choose the distance lens and buy reading glasses, he said.

There are some gaps in the cataract success story. About 20 percent of cataract patients can't have same-day surgery because they have diabetes, heart trouble or other medical conditions that could produce complications; they generally will have an overnight stay in the hospital. Also, ophthalmologists still haven't discovered a method to stop cataracts from forming and can't correct them without surgery. Orange-tinted glasses that filter out glare and improve vision enough to delay surgery are available, but they are expensive and don't work for everyone. Researchers at the National Eye Institute and elsewhere are working on drugs they hope can prevent the molecular changes that cause cataracts.

A couple developments show promise, Helmsen said. One is a group of drugs called aldose reductase inhibitors, which interfere with a biological pathway that is thought to cause lens proteins to congeal. Another is an Italian drug called Bandazac, which is used in Europe but is not available here. Sanders, who has studied European research on Bandazac, said that patients who took the drug apparently had better vision than those who didn't. But there's no evidence that Bandazac actually slowed cataract formation, because there are no techniques that measure the process, he said.

Researchers will be satisfied if they develop something that slows cataract formation for a few years. Because most patients are older than 70, "retardation of cataract formation may mean prevention of the need for cataract extraction," Sanders said. "I think we can stop cataract progression, and obviously it's a goal we want to pursue." □

CHETCHILDS/CUSTOM MEDICAL STOCK PHOTO



**T**he American Legion has decided not to represent veterans in cases presented to the Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA). Nat'l Cmdr. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke instituted the policy in August on the recommendations of Nat'l Judge Advocate Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. and William F. Lenker, chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

"This decision is based on the continuing commitment of The American Legion to provide maximum effort and resources to assist veterans," Gierke said. "We believe that this can be done effectively at VA regional offices and the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA)."

The Legion made its decision after closely examining the rules that will govern veterans' service organizations' participation and obligations in representing cases before the CVA. It was obvious that a legal staff would have had to be hired and trained.

"If we had chosen to hire attorneys, we would have had to determine whether all cases represented by The American Legion would be appealed," Gierke said. "And, if we did not appeal all cases, what would we tell the veterans whose cases we did not appeal?"

Gierke also said that to appeal all cases denied by the BVA would be a disservice to the CVA by clogging it with cases without legal merit, which, in turn, could subject the Legion to court sanctions for frivolous appeals. "Instead of going to court, we will strengthen our existing advocacy network at VA."

The decision not to represent claimants before the CVA, however, does not prevent the Legion from taking a particular case to the court. "We plan to review BVA decisions to determine what specific cases we will use, if necessary, to challenge VA regulations and policies," Gierke said. He said the Legion still intends to cooperate fully with any attorneys veterans hire to represent them in CVA cases.

**V**A has proposed new regulations concerning the evaluation of studies involving exposure to Agent Orange that it says will favor veterans.

VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski directed that the Agent Orange regulation be revised in response to a U.S. District Court decision ruling that VA had not properly interpreted provisions of the 1984 Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act.

The regulations were published in the July 18 edition of the Federal Register to allow public comment before they go into effect sometime this month.

After reviewing the regulations, The American Legion said the changes in guidelines to evaluate the health effects of dioxin and radiation exposure are inadequate to meet the requirements of the court decision. In a letter to Derwinski in August, John F. Sommer Jr., director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, wrote, "The rules proposed by VA are inadequate because they impose purportedly scientific criteria that are inconsistent and even contradictory to the criteria used by other regulatory agencies, such as the U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC)."

"The failure to take animal models into account is particularly distressing," Sommer said, "and is in direct contrast to the criteria established by EPA and IARC for evaluation of scientific studies, which specifically include the results of animal studies."

"The American Legion takes exception both to the specific rules proposed by VA to bring itself into compliance with the recent court ruling, and to VA's failure to cite or recognize the vast body of regulatory and health assessment data already available with regard to herbicides and their components, and to ionizing radiation," Sommer said.

"The current proposals will simply continue the past injustices and will continue to delay for many months and years the compensation and recognition of service-connected disability and disease that is due to American veterans, their dependents and survivors."

**I**n a letter to President George Bush, Nat'l Cmdr. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke deplored the slaying of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins by Moslem captors in Lebanon last July.

"On behalf of the 3 million members of The American Legion, I want to express—in the strongest possible terms—our total and absolute condemnation of the reported execution of Lt. Col. William R. Higgins by terrorists in Lebanon," Gierke wrote in the letter. "Our long-held position supporting strong anti-terrorist program calls for swift and decisive retaliation against perpetrators of terrorist acts. We strongly urge immediate, bold action to make the terrorists suffer for their uncalled for and uncivilized actions."

"Prior to his abduction by terrorists in February 1988, Lt. Col. Higgins was serving the cause of peace with the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization; therefore, the entire world should join in action against his murderers."

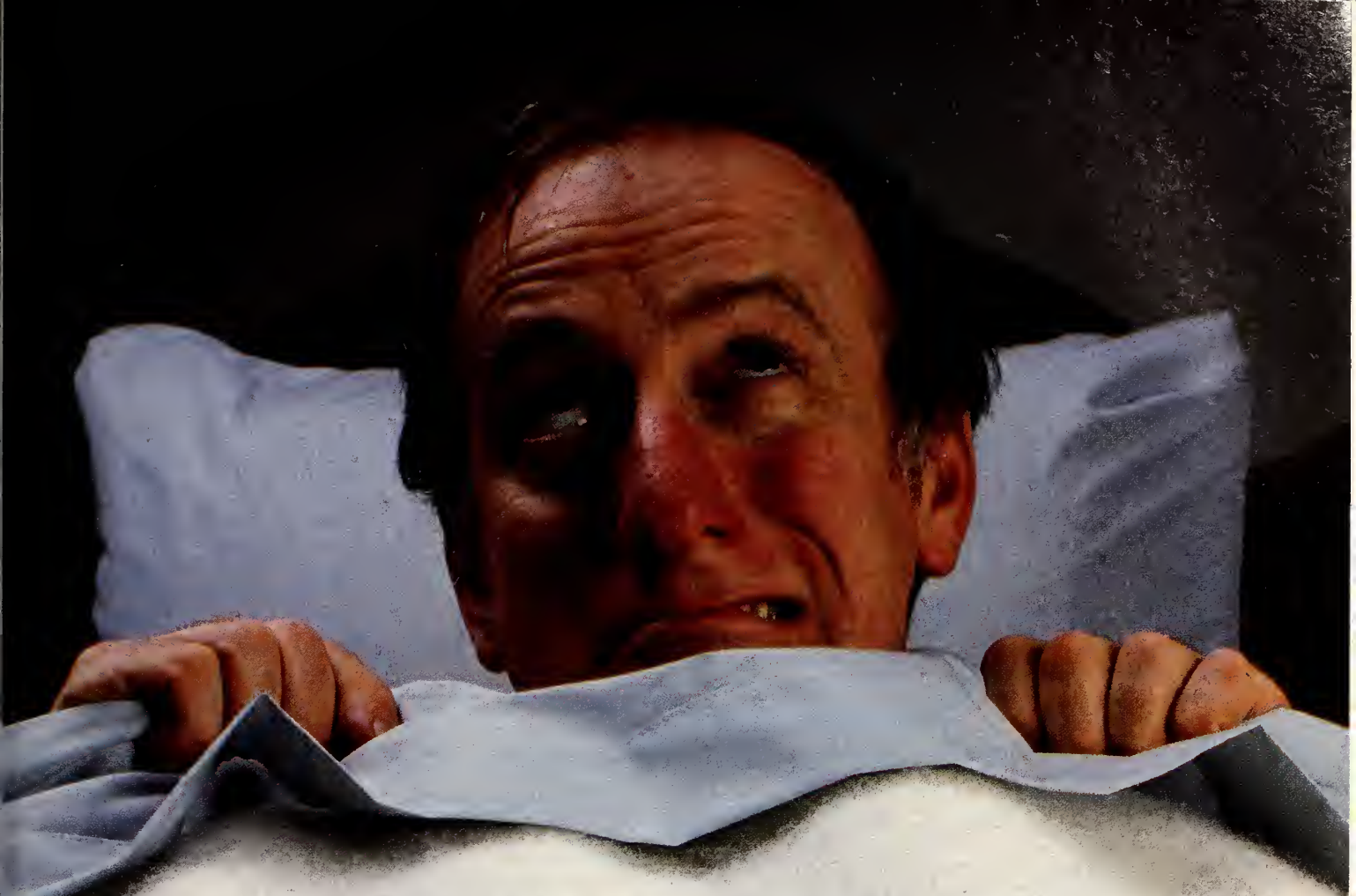
"If strong action is not taken expeditiously, terrorists will be emboldened to act against other Americans. Prompt action is imperative to protect Americans in foreign lands. The American Legion and the American people are sick and tired of seeing these outrageous acts go unpunished. We must act now," the letter concluded.

**F**inding an old buddy may be an easier chore since the release of *How To Locate Anyone Who Is Or Has Been In The Military* by Lt. Col. Richard S. Johnson (Ret.).

The directory provides information on how to locate present, former and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Reserves and National Guard. Addresses and phone numbers of base/post locators, veterans' bulletin-board locators, armed forces worldwide locators, patriotic and veterans' organizations and military reunion associations are listed in the book.

The directory may be ordered by sending a check or money order for \$11 to Military Information Enterprises, P.O. Box 340081, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234.





# CAN YOU AFFORD TO DIE IN YOUR SLEEP?

You can't—if you are counting on an Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy to provide coverage. Because they won't pay. For your family to collect, you'd have to die from an injury. (Chances are slim—more than 95% of all deaths are not accident-related.)\*

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Are these conditional life insurance policies a bargain? Your family could be left holding worthless pieces of paper.

You need life insurance your family can count on. ALLIP. The American Legion Life Insurance Plan.

Because ALLIP pays no matter what (except for acts of war). No strings. No conditions. No ifs, ands, or buts.

And ALLIP is a real bargain. ALLIP offers term insurance, the purest, most economical form of life

insurance available. With the tremendous buying power of The American Legion behind you, you get the lowest possible rates.

Proof? If you're 50 years old, you can get more than \$35,000 worth of life insurance for less than a dollar a day!

## **APPLY TODAY!**

Select the number of units you need from the Benefits Chart on the back of this page. Fill out this form and drop it in the mail with your premium payment.

There's no risk, and no hidden cost. Once your application has been approved, you will be sent a certificate for the coverage you selected. If your application is not approved, your money will be refunded in full. There is absolutely no risk. This is your opportunity to get quality American Legion life insurance protection at competitive rates (since 1958—still only \$24 a unit)! Apply TODAY!

\*Source: 1988 Statistical Abstract of the United States.

**CONCERNED ABOUT *YOUR* LIFE INSURANCE? CALL 1-800-542-5547 TODAY!**



# American Legion Life Insurance

## IS YOUR PRESENT INSURANCE ENOUGH?

According to the Department of Labor statistics, inflation has stripped the value of your dollar by over two-thirds in the past ten years. Think how this has affected your existing life insurance protection!

But as a Legionnaire in good standing, under age 70 and able to meet the underwriting requirements, you can take advantage of The American Legion Life Insurance Plan (ALLIP). You don't have to sit back and endanger your family's security when it's easy to do something about it!

With American Legion Life Insurance, you have a wide range of benefit

As Low As **\$24** a Year!

amounts to choose from, since it's sold by the unit. And you can add units up to a maximum of fourteen.

**APPLY TODAY!** Select the number of units you want from the benefit chart below, complete the Enrollment Form on the bottom of this page, enclose your check or money order made payable to **The American Legion Life Insurance Plan** for the premium indicated. Be sure to answer all the questions—issuance may depend upon these answers. Mail your Enrollment Form and premium payment to: The American Legion Life Insurance Plan, 4870 Street Road, Trevoze, PA 19049. **If you have any questions, call: 1-800-542-5547.**

## Choose the Amount of Protection You Need

### BENEFITS (YEARLY RENEWABLE TERM INSURANCE—POLICY FORM GPC-5700-781)

Limit: Fourteen (14) Units Per Member

The amount to be paid is determined by the age of the insured at the time of death. The schedule opposite shows the amount of insurance at selected ages at death and includes a special 15% increase for deaths occurring in 1989.

\* A unit is the amount of coverage at a particular age. 13, 12, 11, 9, 7, 6, 5 and 3 units also available. Please write for details.

† No persons age 70 or over (including those desiring additional coverage) will be accepted for new insurance.

ALLIP Benefit Chart (By Units* of Coverage)						
Age at Death:	14 UNITS	10 UNITS	8 UNITS	4 UNITS	2 UNITS	1 UNIT
Annual Premium:	\$336 Per Yr.	\$240 Per Yr.	\$192 Per Yr.	\$96 Per Yr.	\$48 Per Yr.	\$24 Per Yr.
From 30 thru 34	\$128,800	\$92,000	\$73,600	\$36,800	\$18,400	\$9,200
From 35 thru 44	\$72,450	\$51,750	\$41,400	\$20,700	\$10,350	\$5,175
From 45 thru 54	\$35,420	\$25,300	\$20,240	\$10,120	\$5,060	\$2,530
From 55 thru 59	\$19,320	\$13,800	\$11,040	\$5,520	\$2,760	\$1,380
From 60 thru 64	\$12,880	\$9,200	\$7,360	\$3,680	\$1,840	\$920
From 65 thru 69	\$8,050	\$5,750	\$4,600	\$2,300	\$1,150	\$575
From 70† thru 74	\$5,313	\$3,795	\$3,036	\$1,518	\$759	\$379.50
Age 75† and Over	\$4,025	\$2,875	\$2,300	\$1,150	\$575	\$287.50
<b>**Required Premium</b>	<b>\$56</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$16</b>	<b>\$8</b>	<b>\$4</b>

**\*\*REQUIRED PREMIUM TO SEND WITH YOUR ENROLLMENT.** Two sets of premium amounts are shown above. The premiums at the head of each column are the annual premium amounts for the policy year. The partial premiums at the bottom of each column are the premiums for the balance of 1989 for approved enrollments effective Nov. 1, 1989. Premiums for enrollments effective Dec. 1 or later are proportionally less, by \$2 PER UNIT PER MONTH, and any overpayments will be refunded. Premiums accompanying non-approved enrollments will be refunded in full.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Your insurance becomes effective on the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date your enrollment is received in the office of the Administrator, subject to Insurance Company approval. While insured, you will receive a renewal notice well in advance of the January 1

annual renewal date. Insurance may be maintained in force by payment of premiums when due.

**INCONTESTABILITY:** Your coverage shall be incontestable after it has been in force during your lifetime for two years from its effective date.

**EXCLUSIONS:** No benefit is payable for death as a result of war or an act of war, if death occurs while serving, or within six months after termination of service in the military, naval or air force of any country or combination of countries.

**CERTAIN STATES** have requirements not satisfied by the enrollment form below. If you reside in one of those states, your enrollment and check will be returned to you to fulfill those requirements. If that is necessary, your enrollment will not be processed until the additional form is returned to us.

**Enrollment Subject to Underwriter's Approval**

### NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Information regarding your insurability will be treated as confidential except that **Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company** may make a brief report to the Medical Information Bureau (M.I.B.), a non-profit membership organization of life insurance companies which operates an information exchange on behalf of its members. Upon request by another member insurance company to which you have applied for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted, the M.I.B. will supply such company with the information it may have in its files.

The Company may also release information in its file to its reinsurers and to other life

insurance companies to which you may apply for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted.

Upon receipt of a request from you, the M.I.B. will arrange disclosure of any information it may have in your file. Medical information will only be disclosed to your attending physician. If you question the accuracy of information in the Bureau's file, you may seek correction in accordance with the procedures set forth in THE FEDERAL Fair Credit Reporting Act. The address of the Bureau's information office is P.O. Box 105, Essex Station, Boston Mass. 02112; Phone (617) 426-3660.

**Detach, complete and mail with your premium payment to The American Legion Life Insurance Plan, 4870 Street Road, Trevoze, PA 19049.**

## ENROLLMENT FORM FOR YEARLY RENEWABLE TERM LIFE INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last First Middle Mo. Day Year  
 Permanent Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street City State Zip  
 Name of Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
 Example: Print "Helen Louise Jones." Not "Mrs. H. L. Jones"  
 Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 I apply for the number of units indicated: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I am applying for additional Legion Life Insurance. My present certificate number is \_\_\_\_\_

The following representations shall form a basis for the Insurance Company's approval or rejection of this enrollment. Answer all questions.

1. Present occupation? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you now actively working? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, give reason \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you been confined in a hospital within the last year? No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give date, length of stay and cause \_\_\_\_\_
3. During the last five years, have you had heart disease, circulatory disease, kidney disease, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, or cancer, or have you had or received treatment or medication for high blood pressure or alcoholism? No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give details \_\_\_\_\_

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

I represent that to the best of my knowledge, all statements and answers recorded on this enrollment form are true and complete. I agree that this enrollment form shall be a part of any insurance granted upon it under the policy. I authorize any physician or other person who has attended or examined me, or who may attend or examine me, to disclose or to testify to any knowledge thus acquired.

I have received and read the Notice of Disclosure of Information. Further, I authorize any physician, medical practitioner, hospital, clinic, or other medical or medically related facility, insurance company, the Medical Information Bureau or other organization, institution or person having any records or knowledge of me or of my health to give Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company any such information.

A photographic copy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant **X**

GMA-300-19 (Univ.)  
EAA9UN

The American Legion offers this insurance through Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company.  
Home Office: Chattanooga, Tennessee



Ed 1/88  
Printed in U.S.A.



# MEMBERSHIP FOR LIFE

**T**HE American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership card: Joseph Ambrose doesn't leave for his Post without it.

Ambrose, a member of Douglas MacArthur Post 340, Diamond Rock, Ark., is just one of 56,000 Legionnaires who have discovered the value and benefits of the PUFL program.

"I no longer face having to pay dues increases, which are levied every year at some Posts," said Ambrose, a 67-year-old, retired electrical construction worker. "For some who might be on fixed incomes, paying dues through PUFL can be a blessing. It's also a time-saver, and I don't have to be troubled by remembering to renew my membership each year."

The PUFL concept is not new. In the Legion's early years, many Posts established independent programs. For example, in 1937 a Post in Bedford, Pa., offered paid-up-for-life memberships for \$20. Similar programs took hold in other Departments. To unify the scattered and often diverse programs, the National Executive Committee in 1974 passed Res. 10, creating the National PUFL membership program.

"A great deal of thought went into the formation of this program," said Douglas W. Henley, chairman of the National Membership and Post Activities Committee. "PUFL membership continues to grow in popularity as Legionnaires discover it is less troublesome and more economical. Unlike other organizations with life membership programs, the Legion will never ask for more money than what is included in the PUFL fee schedule."

Indeed, money savings is a dominant benefit of PUFL, Henley said. For example, a 60-year-old Legionnaire whose annual dues are \$15 would pay a

*Most Legion members can afford a PUFL, if they use the 10-month, time-payment plan.*

.....



PUFL rate of \$190, or \$19 a month for 10 months. After 13 years, his PUFL membership reaches the break-even point, and the remaining years of membership are free. The cost of PUFL membership and the break-even point vary, based on Post dues and a member's age.

**P**AYMENT for PUFL memberships can be made in a variety of ways. Legionnaires can charge it to their VISA or MasterCard, or pay through the Legion's 10-month payment plan. However, the Legion plan requires members to pay 10 percent of the PUFL when they submit their applications. Henley said the typical Legionnaire pays about \$22 a month on the time-payment plan.

There are other benefits to PUFL membership. Members with American Legion Life Insurance are guaranteed that their policies will never be canceled because of a membership lapse; Legionnaires in the PUFL program also will continue to receive each issue of

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE without delay.

A transfer of membership usually poses no problem, Henley said. Transfers from Post to Post within the same Department can be done without difficulty. Transfers from Department to Department are also possible, but some Departments maintain their own PUFL programs and will not accept members from the national program. Colorado,

Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Ohio have created their own paid-up-for-life programs. Any questions about these programs should be directed to the Department Adjutant.

Once Legionnaires have paid for a PUFL membership, they are sent a plastic identification card from National Headquarters, in addition to annual membership cards distributed by Departments.

While PUFL membership is a good way for Legionnaires to remain in good standing, it should not be confused with honorary Life Membership, which Posts give to members who demonstrate outstanding service to the Legion and their communities. Posts are responsible for paying honorary Life Memberships.

Honorary members may wear emblems designating that status, and their names are published in THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

Eligibility for PUFL membership requires that a Legionnaire be a member in good standing in the calendar year in which he applies for a PUFL.

"I realized the savings of a PUFL membership soon after becoming a Legionnaire," Ambrose said. "Other members will too if they consider its many merits."

For more information, contact your Post Adjutant or write to Paid-Up-For-Life Membership, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □







## 1989-90 NATIONAL COMMANDER

# MILES S. EPLING

**W**HEN you walk the point in combat, your job is to lead your unit safely to an objective and to watch for trouble each step along the way. That job is not unlike the Legion's role today as it walks the point for veterans and attempts to ward off budgetary ambushes that threaten veterans' programs and services," said Miles S. Epling, moments after his election as National Commander of The American Legion.

"Underfunding of VA health-care services has taken a heavy toll from veterans in the last decade," Epling said. "Fiscal assaults have resulted in thousands of veterans being denied medical care. As Legionnaires, we know that any veteran turned away from the system is one veteran too many."

Epling's comments drew applause and cheers from the 3,200 delegates and other Legionnaires attending the 71st National Convention in Baltimore. The 39-year-old Epling, the second Vietnam veteran to lead the Legion, said all veterans must work together to stop the trend of underfunding vital veterans' medical programs and other services. During fiscal year 1989, for example, Epling said VA was between \$650 million and \$1 billion short of its budget needs. Congress passed a supplemental appropriation last summer, but the amount was substantially less than what is required to restore care for veterans already forced out of the system.

"Veterans cannot be complacent about the continued inadequate funding of health care," Epling said, "Legionnaires haven't stood silently by as this trend developed."

Epling, who served with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in Vietnam in 1968-69 as an infantryman, lost both legs to wounds after stepping on a land mine while "walking the point," the lead position on combat patrol. A native of West Virginia, Epling said his goals during his year as National

Commander will be to bolster the Legion's Children and Youth programs and to persuade the federal government to take more action on behalf of Vietnam veterans.

"The Legion has a strong tradition of promoting the wholesome development of children," Epling said. "Programs such as the Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Boys Nation, American Legion Baseball and our work with the Boy Scouts and Special Olympics are the heart and soul of the Legion. We also must vigorously pursue programs to prevent the tragedies of alcohol and drug abuse. It's not enough to teach kids to just say no—we must teach them to

make intelligent decisions on their own and to resist destructive peer pressure."

In discussing The American Legion and Columbia University Study of Vietnam Veterans, Epling said he will encourage congressmen and other policy-makers to consider the results of the five-year study, which examined the health problems of combat veterans exposed to Agent Orange and those suffering from the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. "Many independent scientists have praised our study, saying that it's one of the most comprehensive and conclusive ever conducted," Epling said.

Epling's association with the world's largest veterans' organization began in November 1969, when he traded his Marine dress blues for the blue cap of the Legion. Shortly after

returning to his hometown of Point Pleasant, W. Va., he became a member of Mason County Post 23. "A friend of mine signed me up and paid my first year's dues," he said. "That gesture showed me that Legionnaires are committed to veterans. They're willing to invest their money, time and talent to help veterans and their communities."

Honored with life membership by Post 23 in 1982, Epling rose through the Legion ranks by holding most offices at his Post, including seven terms as Post Commander. He served as District Commander, 1974-76; Department Vice Com-



**'M**Y JOB in Vietnam as point man for my unit (right, in photo) was not unlike the Legion's role today as it walks the point for veterans. ■



mander, 1980-81; and, in 1983, became the first Vietnam veteran in West Virginia to serve as Department Commander.

On the national level, Epling's career has included a tour of duty as Alternate National Executive Committeeman in 1982; National Vice Commander, 1985-86; chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee, 1986-87; and he has served as chairman of the National Americanism Council and on the National Security Commission.

Epling, who counts fishing, coin and gun collecting, hunting and golf among his hobbies, graduated from Mountain State College in Parkersburg, W.Va., and received an associate degree in accounting and business administration. He put those skills to work when he was employed by Fisher's Stores Inc., and later when he served as a county magistrate. Epling hit the campaign trail in 1980 and was elected Circuit Clerk of Mason County, an office he continues to hold.

The son of the late Miles and Freda Epling, the former Marine corporal has memberships in the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, U.S. Unit (ANAVICUS), Marine Corps League, National Rifle Association, Military Order of The Purple Heart and the Kentucky Colonels. He and his family are members of Trinity United Methodist Church.



**EPLING ASSUMES command of The American Legion at a time when veterans' benefits are at a crossroads. Unity and Legion dedication will lead veterans down the right path.**

The Eplings are the consummate Legion family. His family includes his wife of 18 years, the former Diane E. Fisher; and sons, Thomas Shane, 15, and Travis Michael, 3. "My wife belongs to the Auxiliary, and my sons are members of Sons of The American Legion," the new commander said.

"The Marine Corps motto is *semper fidelis* — always faithful," Epling said. "My wife and sons always have been faithful in their support of me, and they'll be at my side as I perform my duties as National Commander."

Although Epling is a member of other veterans' organizations, he said his 20-year association with the Legion is the strongest. "What makes Legionnaires unique is that we don't just talk about helping our communities, states and nation; we roll up our sleeves and do it. That might sound old-fashioned to some folks, but I would remind them that there is nothing outdated about building a better tomorrow for our children."

Epling has earned a solid reputation as a strong veterans' advocate in his state. Former Gov. Arch Moore Jr. appointed him to the West Virginia Veterans' Council and the West Virginia War Memorial Commission, on which he ably serves in a project to build a memorial honoring all West Virginia war veterans.

"Unity is the key to the Legion," said Epling, who is the third West Virginian to take the helm of the Legion. "A veteran is a veteran, regardless of when that person served in

the armed forces. We're all equal; we're all the same because we're all working toward the same goals."

Epling takes command of the world's largest veterans' organization at a critical time for America's 27 million veterans, many of who are concerned about the future of VA programs and services. "Veterans today are at a crossroads," Epling said. "We must stand united to preserve what we have earned. I'm proud and confident that the Legion is on the point, leading veterans along the right path."

After his election, Epling met with editors of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE and discussed several topics of concern to Legionnaires. Excerpts from the interview follow.

**American Legion Magazine:** As a Vietnam veteran, do you have any special plans for recruiting new members from that era?

**Nat'l Cmdr. Epling:** Vietnam veterans have come of age. They're loving parents and concerned citizens; they care what happens in their communities. During my term, we'll push hard to recruit Vietnam veterans. But it's important to note that the Legion has 750,000 members who are Vietnam veterans, more than any other veterans' organization. Needless to say, this does not mean we're not interested in recruiting veterans of World Wars I and II and Korea. The Legion's strength depends on a unified membership of all veterans.

**Q.** How will Vietnam veterans and their families benefit from a recent grant awarded to the Legion by the Agent Orange Class Assistance Program?

**A.** The Legion was awarded a \$548,000 grant to help veterans and their families suffering from the effects of Vietnam service, especially Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Our grant comes from the settlement of a class-action suit filed by Vietnam veterans against Agent Orange manufacturers. The Legion will use the grant to establish an information network that will link veterans and their families to health agencies which can help them. The Legion also will develop volunteer programs that will help veterans' families, especially those with children suffering from birth defects and the families of those with PTSD and substance abuse problems. The Legion project will be launched in New York, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Kansas, but eventually it will become nationwide.

**Q.** What are some of the specific problems resulting from the underfunding of VA health-care programs?

**A.** The most obvious result is that thousands of veterans with non-service-connected ailments have been forced to wait in long lines to receive medical treatment, if they're fortunate enough to get care at all. A nationwide survey conducted by the Legion earlier this year showed that 135 of 159 VA hospital directors reduced or eliminated inpatient and outpatient services for non-service-connected veterans during 1988 and 1989. A major reason why VA medical facilities were forced to cut services is because of an insufficient number of trained medical staff. Simply put, if you don't have the staff, you can't deliver quality health care. There is a national nursing shortage, and it has been extremely acute at VA hospitals, where salaries and benefits lag behind the private sector. Every veteran eligible for care should be entitled to receive *quality* nursing care.





*Underfunding of VA health care has forced thousands of veterans to wait for treatment, if they get it at all.*

*What makes Legionnaires unique is that we don't talk about helping our nation. We roll up our sleeves and do it.*

*We hear a lot of rhetoric from the Kremlin, but we must not make hasty decisions that would cause America to disarm.*

**Q.** In addition to the fiscal problems of its medical system, isn't VA's home-loan program also in trouble?

**A.** Yes. Congress has been forced to appropriate \$1 billion in each of the past two fiscal years to keep the Home Loan Guaranty Program from going bankrupt. The program is in trouble for several reasons, ranging from an estimated 25,000 foreclosures on veterans' loans each year to poor management practices at VA loan offices. The Legion supports a mortgage indemnity fee in which a veteran home owner and the government would share the costs of a premium set at 2 percent of the loan. The fee would be used to pay the loan if the foreclosed property is sold for less than the outstanding mortgage. Solvency of the home-loan program is vital to this nation, and it has helped 13 million veterans purchase homes since its inception.

**Q.** Will the new U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals have any significant effect on veterans whose claims have been denied?

**A.** As far as the new court is concerned, the Legion doesn't foresee wholesale reversals of claims that have been denied by VA's Board of Veterans Appeals. The new court is empowered only to review cases that have clear and obvious errors of fact or law, or a question of constitutionality of a VA regulation.

It's important to understand that the new court will review only the case records that have gone before the BVA. No new evidence can be introduced in the Court of Veterans Appeals. While there will obviously be some veterans who will benefit, not every case will be decided favorably by the CVA.

**Q.** What do you see as the major challenges facing the nation in the coming year?

**A.** Aside from the need to intensify efforts to reduce the national deficit, it's imperative that the nation preserve

and project a strong defense posture. A strong America is even more important today, considering the startling events that have happened throughout the world in the last year. When we look at the unrest in China, Hungary, Soviet Union and Poland, as examples, we see an emerging victory for freedom and democracy. The United States has been the beacon of freedom for these and all other people who are oppressed.

There's no doubt that freedom is on the march today and democracy stands taller in the world. America must remain the pillar of strength that for years has commanded the respect of friend and foe alike. However, we cannot maintain that status by cutting \$10 billion from the FY 1990 Defense Department budget, which has been proposed by the Administration. If the proposal is approved by Congress, the Army will lose a brigade, and the Navy will be forced to mothball a carrier and seven destroyers. Nor do we send a strong message to the world if we accept the proposal to slash the Strategic Defense Initiative program by \$1 billion.

Another challenge is our dealings with the Soviet Union. We hear a lot of rhetoric from the Kremlin about troop and weapons reductions, world peace and nuclear arms reductions. But we must not be hoodwinked by empty promises. We must not submit to hasty decisions that would cause the United States to disarm. Seeing is believing, and that should be our nation's guiding philosophy for any negotiations with the Soviets.

**Q.** Is Central America and unrest in that region still a major concern?

**A.** Absolutely. The Central American Peace Plan that was signed by the five Central American presidents in 1987 was well-intentioned, but was destined to fail unless the ruling Sandinistas in Nicaragua would allow free and open

*Please turn to page 70*



## Two New ANAVICUS Scholarships Awarded To College Students



**S**TUDENTS from New York and Massachusetts were the recipients of scholarships from the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, U.S. Unit (ANAVICUS). PNC Daniel F. Foley, ANAVICUS president, presented \$1,000 scholarships to Timothy McGlyn of Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y., and to Paula Pistorino at Merrimack College,

Mass. The scholarships were awarded on the basis of academic achievement and leadership qualities.

McGlyn received the first annual Gen. Frank R. Schwengel Scholarship. Schwengel, a founder of ANAVICUS and former chairman of the ANAVICUS executive committee, lived for many years in Westchester County where Iona College is located.

Pistorino is the first recipient of the Edward J. Carney Scholarship, named in memory of Edward J. Carney, OSA, a Past National Chaplain of The American Legion. Also witnessing the presentation were John Wrenn, past Department

Commander of Massachusetts, and the Rev. John E. Deegan, OSA, Merrimack president.

ANAVICUS was founded in 1953 to foster fellowship between U.S. and Canadian veterans. In addition to the Schwengel and Carney scholarships, the organization awards five other scholarships annually.



## Visits With Bush, Quayle Highlight Of Boys Nation

**V**ISITS with President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle were among the highlights of the 44th annual American Legion Boys Nation, July 21-29, in Washington, D.C.

The Vice President posed for photographs and spoke with the young men about public service as a career.

Each year, two delegates from 48 states and the District of Columbia meet in the nation's capital for the week-long Boys Nation, which

gives high school juniors practical insight into the operation of the federal government.

The delegates were divided into two political parties and met to debate proposed legislation and to nominate candidates for office. Thomas Christian Workman, 16, Bexley, Ohio, was elected president of Boys Nation, and Renard Francois, 18, Nashville, Tenn., was elected vice president. Navy-Marine Post 267, Columbus, Ohio, sponsored Workman to Boys Nation

and the Buckeye Boys State. Francois was sponsored by Post 5, Nashville.

The young men met with their counterparts in the U.S. Senate and received briefings at the State Department and the Pentagon. They also visited the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., and the newspaper *USA Today*, where founder Allen Neuharth, a participant in the 1941 South Dakota Boys State, spoke about the role of the media and the importance of nurturing future leaders.

Two of the delegates joined the National Commander and National Chaplain in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

### "TAPS" AVAILABLE

**P**osts needing a cassette recording of "Taps" for sounding military funerals or patriotic services may receive one by writing to George Gregory, 2985 Nightingale, Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

The recording features the "Taps" sounded at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy, complete with firing of the rifle squad. Also available from Gregory is the traditional Army "Taps."

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## Workshop Offers Tips On Recruiting



Dr. Howard Bruner

**Y**OU'VE got to be dynamite. You've got to keep the spark. Don't let the fire burn out," Dr. Howard Bruner urged 300 Legionnaires attending the 26th Annual National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis.

Bruner, a motivational speaker and Legionnaire, told the participants to go home and recruit the 28,000 members needed to reach the 3 million member goal.

During the July workshop, newly elected Legion officials, including Department Commanders, Membership Chairmen, District Commanders and Adjutants busily jotted notes, tape recorded speeches and read through stacks of information to learn about recruiting and retention.

The 1989-90 membership

year is being dedicated to the memory of Michael Millican of Lancaster, Calif., who died while attending the workshop. Millican, 43, was a member of the Membership and Post Activities Committee. "We must win by losing," Bruner said the day after Millican's death. "We must use today as an inspiration to be better tomorrow—for Mike."

Also offering inspiration to the group was Douglas Henley, chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee. "With the erosion of VA medical services and the assault on our flag, the Legion, more than ever, has to lead the nation in solving problems such as these," he said.

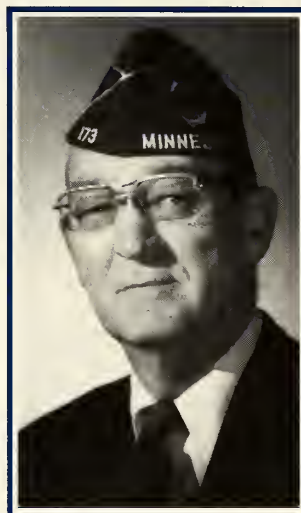
"We need to rally round the flag," National Adjutant Robert Spanogle said, as he announced that the Jaycees wanted to join the Legion in petitioning for a constitutional amendment prohibiting physical desecration of the flag.

The workshop participants apparently learned their lessons well. At the 71st National Convention in Baltimore one month later, Nat'l Cmdr. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke announced that the Legion was more than 3 million members strong.

### VETERANS' HANDBOOK STILL AVAILABLE

**C**opies of the widely acclaimed July issue, the *Handbook Of Veterans Affairs and Benefits*, are available for \$2 each, postage paid. Write to Special Benefits Issue, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

## Frank C. Momsen, 78, Past National Adjutant, Dies



Frank C. Momsen

**P**AST National Adjutant Frank C. Momsen, 78, of the Department of Minnesota, died Aug. 4 in Florida after a short illness.

PNC Jack Carey of Michigan delivered the eulogy at services in Florida, and PNC Daniel F. Foley gave the eulogy at a memorial service at Fort Snelling Chapel, St. Paul, Minn.

"I valued his wise counsel greatly," Foley said. "His intense loyalty to the Legion will not be forgotten."

Minnesota Adjutant Charles Ferguson, who knew Momsen for 27 years, said Momsen set an enduring example through his leadership and dedication as Adjutant of Minnesota from 1966-78, and as National Adjutant from 1978-81.

A WWII Navy veteran, Momsen joined the Legion in 1946. He worked his way

through the Legion leadership ranks by serving as Commander at the Post, County and District levels. In addition to several Department positions, Momsen was a member of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, 1955-56; National Sergeant-at-Arms, 1963-64; National Commander's Representative to the National Security Commission, 1964-66; member of the National Committee on Committees, 1963; member of the Advisory Committee to the National Convention, 1967-80; and vice chairman of the National Spirit of '76 Committee, which planned the Legion's participation in the Bicentennial celebration. He was also awarded a life membership by Earle C. Ray Post 173 of Tracy, Minn., in 1978.

The past eight years, Momsen was a consultant to the National Convention Commission. According to James Charleston, chairman of the commission, Momsen helped bring about the selection of Minneapolis as the site of the 1994 National Convention. "He knew all the ropes of the organization. He was a tremendous asset and will be dearly missed," said Charleston.

A native of Garrett Park, Md., Momsen grew up in St. Paul, Minn., and attended Carlton College and the University of Minnesota.

Momsen is survived by his wife, JoAnn; daughters Mrs. Peggy Bollrath and Mrs. Sandy Lindbo; and sons Frank Charles and Bert.



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## OUTFIT REUNIONS

**Guidelines — Outfit Reunion** notices must be submitted on official forms only. To obtain forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: O.R. Form, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Notices must be received at least five months before reunions are scheduled and will be published only on a first-come, first-served basis. Notices are published only one time per unit per year.

## Army

- 48th Ord. Co. (MM) (WWII) (Apr-Chicago) Louis Smutzer, 235 W. Lombard St., Davenport, IA 52803 (319) 324-0857
- 84th/62nd Engr. Const. Bns., 2nd Engr. Const. Grp. (Korea) (Mar-New Iberia, LA) Arthur Wigdahl, 110 Belle Place Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560 (318) 364-6638
- 88th Div. (So. Eastern Chapter) (Oct-Charleston, SC) George Spino, Box 2561, Largo, FL 34649
- 137th Inf., 35th Div., A Co. (Nov-Atchison, KS) Harold Volk, 1022 Iowa St., Lawrence, KS 66044 (913) 843-5896
- 735th MP Bn., B Co. (Oct-Huron, OH) Jim Holman, 107 Lombardy, Trenton, TN 38382 (901) 855-1917
- 901st Ord HAM Co. (Co. H-57) (Mar-Palm Bay, FL) Albert Velletri, Box 429, Millbrook, NY 12545 (914) 677-3313
- 1905th Ord. Amm Co. (AVN) (Feb-Tampa, FL) Joe Kirchen, 2054 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60635 (312) 637-0358

## Navy

- 8th Spec. CB Btry., ATTU (Apr-Nashville, TN) Clarence Ruiz, 1517 Poinsetta Dr., Metairie, LA 70005 (504) 834-4028
- A.R.D.S. Navy 60 (Russells, Solomons) (Nov-Niagara Falls, NY) Ed Devantier, 1115 91st St., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 (716) 283-9108
- Aerospace Physiology Assn. (Mar-Pensacola, FL) Dusty Rhodes, 2049 Eastgate Way, Tallahassee, FL 32308 (904) 386-6439
- Mine Sq. 10 Assn. (Mar-Charleston, SC) Paul Handley, Box 32416, Charleston, SC 29417 (803) 571-3214
- MRU-NTC, DIV. 1700 (Mar-Reno, NV) Armon Dillo, 604 Sheffield Ct., Sparks, NV 89431 (702) 331-4025
- Nav. Air Sq. VC-9 (Oct-Hot Springs, AR) Len Poth, 3 Pontevedra Cir., Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
- Newport R.I. Boot Camp (Dec. 1941-Jan. 1942) (Oct-Palatka, FL) John Orr, Rt. 1, Box 801, East Palatka, FL 32031 (904) 328-6547
- Tiburon Naval Net Dpt. (Oct-Tiburon, CA) S. Church, 567 Rosecrans St., San Diego, CA 92106
- US Navy Salvage Divers (Oct-Long Beach, CA) Leonard Greenstone, 6029 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034
- USS ATR 16 (Dec-Charleston, WV) William Pinkerton Jr., 5306 Starling Dr., Charleston, WV 25306 (304) 925-5854
- USS Hutchins DD 476 (May-Norfolk, VA) George Johnston, 429 Cedar Ln., Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (804) 486-8787
- USS Rapidan AO 18 (Feb-Kissimmee, FL) Howard True, 3437 Chapel Ln., Birmingham, AL 35226 (205) 822-2052
- USS South Dakota (1942-45) (Oct-Marshfield, MA) LeRoy Osborne, 645 Forest St., Marshfield, MA 02050
- USS White River LSMR 536 (Mar-Houston) Lee McKean, 13618 Stone Henge, Sugar Land, TX 77478 (713) 491-1961

## Army Air Forces

- 321st Signal Co. Wing (Dec-Port Charlotte, FL) Lawrence Ambrose, 1488 St. George Ln., Port Charlotte, FL 33983 (813) 625-3876
- 482nd Bomb Grp. (England/WWII) (Oct-Denver) Dennis Scanlan Jr., One Scanlan Plaza, St. Paul, MN 55107 (612) 298-0997

## Air Force

- 491st Bomb Grp. (H), 8th AF (England/WWII) (Nov) Ringmasters Log, 5318 Fairfield W., Dunwoody, GA 30338 (404) 394-3056

## Marines

- HMM 164 Assn. (Vietnam) (Apr-Reston, VA) Michael Triner, 608 W. Belmont, #3E, Chicago, IL 60657 (312) 871-7776

## LET'S GET TOGETHER

Notice of proposed reunions will be published on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for inclusion must list the unit name, branch of service, contact name, address, including zip code and American Legion membership card number. Submit your request to: "Let's Get Together," The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

## Army

- 1/12 Red Warriors, 4th Inf. Div. (1969-70) William Kinney, 1417 Burnet Ave., Syracuse, NY 13206 (315) 472-3141
- 1st Bn., 14th Inf., 25th Div. B Co. (1965-68) Duane Duden, 1300 67th Ave., #101, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430 (612) 561-7355
- 3rd Bn., 6th Arm'd Cav., I Co. (1949-51) Neil Knopp, 140 E. Oneida St., Oswego, NY 13126 (315) 343-0686
- 3rd Sq., 17th Air Cav. (1967-69) Bobby Marcum, 836 Faulkner's Ln., Harrodsburg, KY 40330 (606) 236-8065
- 8th Bn., 6th Arty., 1st Div., C Btry. (1964-65) Dale Wolf, 712 Christie, Ottawa, IL 61350
- 23rd Arm'd Engrs., A Co. (WWII) Alvin Holst, 6355 Indiana Ave., Bettendorf, IA 52722 (319) 332-4882
- 29th C.A. Sep. Bn., Btry. B (Antigua BWI) James Carroll, 4 Cedar St., Lynbrook, NY 11563 (516) 887-3938
- 35th Inf. Rgt., 25th Div., L Co. (Korea) W.B. Woodruff Jr., Box 515, Decatur, TX 76234 (817) 627-3745
- 44th Engr. (C) Bn. (Broken Hearts/Korea) Harold O'Connell, 346 Washington St., Braintree, MA 02184 (617) 843-5802
- 48th Ord. MM Co. (S.W. Pacific/WWII) Louis Smutzer, 235 W. Lombard St., Davenport, IA 52803
- 54th MP Co. (Ascom City, Korea/1945-46) Arthur Taylor, Box 111, Hulett, WY 82720 (307) 467-5983
- 61st MP Co., 5th Army HQ Lewis Trent, 613 W. Orchard Ln., Greenwood, IN 46142 (317) 881-6293
- 75th JASCO LaVern Van Koeveering, 1461 Richmond St., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504
- 78th Engr. Bn., B Co. Armand Gavazzi, 3554 N.W. 26th Ct., Boca Raton, FL 33434 (407) 483-7809
- 87th Inf. Rgt., 10th Div., L Co. (1955-57) Guy Levingson, Rt. 1, Box 51, Jewett, IL 62436 (217) 924-4388
- 92nd Signal Bn., HQ Co. (ETO) Henry Buck, Box 97, Scotts Hill, TN 38374
- 117th General Hospital Gregory Kashuba, 31 Moss Ave., Seymour, CT 06483 (203) 888-6935
- 131st Trans. Trk. Co. (1950-53) Robert Appleby, 110 Flamingo Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 697-2191
- 170th F.A., HQ Btry. C.J. Aidala, 210 N. "K" St., Muskogee, OK 74403
- 179th FA Bn., 3rd Army, HQ, Service, All Btrys. (WWII) Hugh Sonner, Rt. 2, Box 180, Corinth, NY 12822 (518) 696-4127
- 188th QM Bn. HQ Kasimer Tarnowski, 21476 Redmond, East Detroit, MI 48021 (313) 775-1520
- 216th CA AA Rgt. Virgil Lange, 2094 E. Geranium Ave., St. Paul, MN 55119 (612) 735-2770
- 284th Engr. Combat Bn. Emmet Good, Box 52, Stanley, VA 22851
- 323rd Engr. Lgt. Equip. Co. (1951-52) Raymond Hudachek, 314 Jackson Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564
- 392nd FA Bn., 42nd Div., C Btry. (1943-46) Joseph Smith, 46 Mountain View Ave., Hurley, NY 12443 (914) 331-6140
- 449th AW Co. Btry. William Cook, Rt. 1, Box 475, Nanty Glo, PA 15943 (814) 749-7003
- 479th Anti-Submarine Grp. (Westover/Mitchell Fields/England) R.G. Watkins, 41161 Jamaica Ln., Hemet, CA 92344 (714) 925-2203
- 503rd A/B Inf. Rgt., 3rd Bn., HQ Co. (1955-57) Russ Spence, 2020 Landmark Towers, St. Paul, MN 55102 (612) 227-0799
- 543rd AAA AW Bn., HQ & HQ Btry. (WWII) William Maloney, 1080 Washington St., Spencerport, NY 14559 (716) 594-9273
- 570th Engrs. (Vietnam/1966-67) Kerry Clark, Rt. 1, Box 509, Lobelville, TN 37097 (615) 593-2463
- 573rd P.S.C. (Ft. Bragg-1969) Tom Schleck, 730 Plainview Ln., Alberta Lea, MN 56007 (507) 373-2940

- 744th Ord. LM Co., 44th Div. (WWII) John Richardson, 55 Thurston St., Riverside, RI 02915
- 821st QM Supply Dpt. Clyde Easter, Rt. 1, Box 169D, Fancy Gap, VA 24328
- 1575th Ord. S&M Co., 54th Air Serv. Grp. (WWII) Thomas Beauchamp, 862 Portland Ave., Montgomery, AL 36111 (205) 288-6886
- 1909th QM Trk. Co., 323rd Serv. Grp. Si Keasley, 79 Chestnut Cir., Randolph, MA 02368
- 2002nd Ord. Maint. Co. AF Chuck McColly, 1710 Brothers Ln., Box 1882, Poulsbo, WA 98370 (206) 697-6739
- 3478th Ord. MAM Co. (WWII) Sam Feldberg, 805 Smoketree Rd., Pikesville, MD 21208
- 3578th Ord. Dpt. Co. (WWII) Anton Baumer, 72 Wellman St., Lewiston, ME 04240
- 3620th QM Trk. Co. (WWII) James Wise, 14437 Marysville Rd., #9, Camptonville, CA 95922
- 4557th QM Serv. Co. (1945-46) Otis Lytle Jr., 804 E. Rosebrier, Springfield, MO 65807 (417) 882-9394
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- USS Griffin AS 13 Eugene McCarthy, 7 Perkins St., Stoneham, MA 02180 (617) 665-4038
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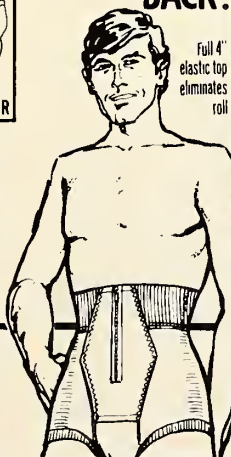
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# SLEUTHING

*Continued from page 33*

potential that gives civil libertarians pause. Unlike fingerprints, which only identify, DNA contains a wealth of information about an individual, including genetic heredity and susceptibility to disease. "How will we limit the use of genetic information once the police have it?" asked attorney Andrew Kimbrell, policy director for the Foundation on Economic Trends, a Washington, D.C., watchdog group.

"Some day," said Kimbrell, "there may even be a national, computerized genetic file on each of us. Who will have access to it? Will employers and insurance companies be allowed to discriminate against individuals because their DNA shows a predisposition for a certain disease? No amount of crime solving can justify an invasion of our genetic privacy. This is a scary situation, and I think every American should be concerned."

It may be difficult to get this genie back in the bottle, however. Courts in nearly 40 states have allowed DNA testimony, and already there's talk of a national law enforcement DNA print file. The FBI has established its own DNA laboratory, and other police agen-

cies are planning to do the same. A few states have even passed laws requiring some convicted felons to provide DNA samples for police records. Before long, a weathered detective may turn to his assistant and say: "DNA testing? Why it's elementary, my dear Watson." □

## HAVE YOU SEEN THESE CHILDREN?

**ABDUCTED—Zachary Wayne and Bethany Lorrann Weathers. Last seen July 30, 1988, in Shell Lake, Wis. Hair: Zachary, brown; Bethany, blond. Eyes: blue. Height: Zachary, 4'; Bethany, 3'7". Weight: Zachary, 70 lbs.; Bethany, 52 lbs. Contact the Washburn County Sheriff Department, Shell Lake, Wis., (715) 468-2721.**

*A public service provided by The American Legion.*









## DEFENSE

*Continued from page 35*

and for a number of those companies, the defense business is a relatively small piece of the total. So they really do have a choice whether to stay in or not. In fact, there are a number of companies that are in the process of trying to sell their defense divisions.

**Q.** Why do new weapons systems cost so much, and what can be done about it?

**A.** There have been a number of commissions, the most recent to begin is the Packard Commission, which has spent months trying to analyze and suggest improvements. Anytime you are working at the leading edge of technology, it is inherently expensive and risky. A \$60 billion a year procurement is a huge amount, and it's basically *custom* procurement—involving the interaction of Congress, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the U.S. Armed Services and industry. Besides being a complex, high-risk, high-technology business, it is custom and

involves relatively small quantities.

**Q.** What about the cases of outright fraud that have come to light?

**A.** Again, I can only speak for myself and what I see, but I do not believe it is widespread. There are clearly some, but I would be very surprised if current "ill wind" investigations disclose it as being a predominant way of doing business. I just don't think that is the case.

**Q.** Some defense companies complain about being swamped by government auditors and overruled by DoD micromanagement. What can be done about it?

**A.** That is one manifestation of the complexity of the system. There are a lot of government people involved in supervising, auditing and managing, but it's really just one symptom of the problem. The only way to improve the system is to modify it in ways that will bring quicker, less expensive, more reliable procurements.

**Q.** To what extent are budget cutbacks reducing the defense industry to single-source suppliers for weapons and thereby eliminating competition

among contractors?

**A.** I can only talk about the prime contractor, and there are still a sufficient number of major or prime contracts at the systems level that involves good competition. What I'm not as clear on is the situation at the second or third level—in terms of getting suppliers. I think there you'll find competition is probably being reduced.

**Q.** Where do you see the defense industry going in terms of its activities and contributions to the national defense and the rest of the nation?

**A.** There is a continuing need for a strong defense, and the defense industry is vital to that; it is truly a partner in the total defense effort. The defense industry is one of our leading technology industries. There are all sorts of ways that the technology developed for defense gets used in the broader economy. Materials research leads to improvements in materials for civilian products. The direct approach of aerodynamics research leads to more efficient commercial airplanes. Then there is the electronics and avionics fields where there are tremendous spinoffs. America is bound to see still more of such benefits in the future. □

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## How to Make Your Arteries Cleanse Themselves Without Drugs or Surgery

Edwin  
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(SPECIAL FEATURE)—Good news for everyone who is health conscious! A remarkable new health guide by Dr. Edwin Flatto is now available that reveals a medically tested method that can stimulate arteries to cleanse themselves—the natural way—without drugs or surgery.

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By following Dr. Flatto's advice you can feel better than you have in years. You'll learn which delicious foods to eat and which to avoid. And you'll probably have more energy than you know what to do with. Here's a small sample of the useful and helpful information in this valuable aid to better health:

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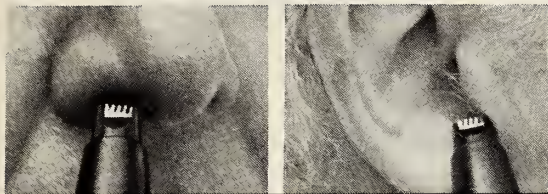
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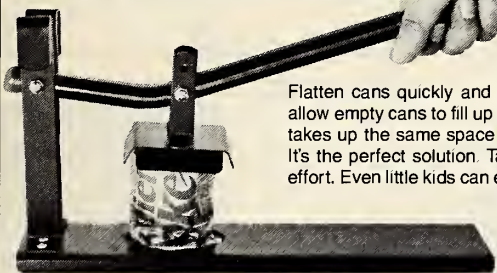


## The Personal Trimmer

Our cordless precision trimmer is perfect for removing hair from your nose, eyebrows and ears safely, painlessly and quickly. It's safer than a scissor and it really works. Guard protects the steel cutting blades assuring that no moving parts come in contact with your tender skin while its high speed action is powered by 1 AA battery (not included). Safe to use even without mirror. Approximately 6" long.

Personal Trimmer only \$7<sup>95</sup>

# CAN CRUSHER



that saves space

Flatten cans quickly and easily. Never again allow empty cans to fill up your trash. One can takes up the same space as 7 crushed cans. It's the perfect solution. Takes no strength or effort. Even little kids can easily do it.

Simply put can in and press

Quickly mounts on table or wall. Great for recycling. Eliminates the hassle and bother. Approx. 14" high. Rugged steel construction. Makes our can crusher virtually indestructible. Easy to use.

Can Crusher only \$12<sup>95</sup>

## WHY PAY FOR A CABLE BOX

# INSTANT CABLE 47 CHANNEL CONVERTER

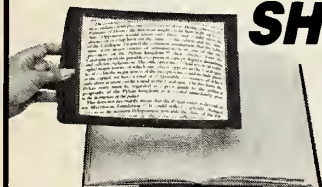
does it all in minutes



Imagine! Now you can have cable TV without the monthly cable box rental cost. That's right! Our 47 channel cable TV converter can easily be hooked up in seconds. Result - you get 47 channels that are normally broadcast only by the cable companies. Measures just 7" x 3".

47 Channel Cable Converter \$35<sup>95</sup>

# MAGNIFYING SHEET



MAKES READING EASY!

## Magnifies entire bookpage!

Distortion-free magnifier lets you read anything without glasses. This amazing, full page magnifier is a blessing for anyone who has trouble reading small print. It magnifies an entire page to four times its size ending squinting and eyestrain. Perfect for reading telephone books, newspapers, magazines or instruction sheets. Unbreakable frame with a wafer thin lens.

Magnifying Sheet only \$2<sup>95</sup>

# DEFEND YOURSELF

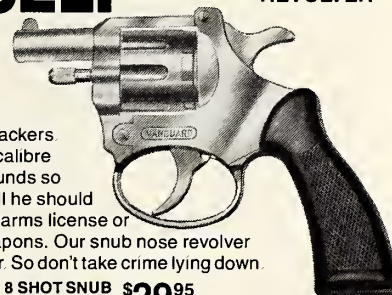
with TEAR GAS or BLANKS  
No Federal License or Gun Permit Needed!

Yes! In just seconds you can immediately disable any attackers. Because now you are armed with the most effective .22 calibre non-lethal tear-gas handgun ever devised. Each shot sounds so real that the intruder will be easily scared away - and well he should be! But the best part is that you do not need a federal firearms license or gun permit to own or carry these personal protective weapons. Our snub nose revolver is the famous Vanguard model 8-shot side loading cylinder. So don't take crime lying down.

10 TEAR GAS CARTRIDGES \$8<sup>95</sup>

100 EXTRA-LOUD .22 BLANKS \$10<sup>95</sup>

8 SHOT SNUB NOSE ONLY \$29<sup>95</sup>



SNUB NOSE REVOLVER

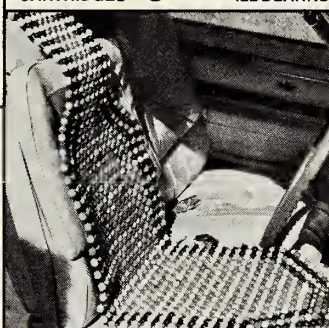
## Beaded Car Seat

# VENTILATES & MESSAGES

Eases pain while you drive

Gives you a relaxing refreshing drive every time. That's because the unique design actually massages your back while you drive. Also ends discomfort caused by extreme summer and winter weather. Made of closely woven wooden beads, lacquered to give excellent cool and comfortable ventilation. Looks great too! Handy straps easily tie to your seat for a perfect fit. 51" long x 17" wide. Sells nationally for \$34.95 - now only \$19.95.

Beaded Car Seat only \$19<sup>95</sup>



## MODEL-T WEATHER VANE



The faster wind blows the faster it cranks

WEATHER VANES THAT MAKE YOU LAUGH



You get a kick watching

## DONKEY KICKING WEATHER VANE

The slightest breeze spins the propeller, having the man move up and down cranking up his classic Model-T car. Or maybe you prefer the realistic action of our cute donkey with his rear legs kicking the farmer in the pants. Both will add a splendid touch to your home. Great for lawn, porch, fence post or anywhere you wish to add charm. Weather-proof. Each approx. 12" long.

Model-T Weather Vane only \$7<sup>45</sup>

Donkey Weather Vane only \$7<sup>45</sup>



# NIGHT DRIVING

choice of spectacle or clip-on styles

Stop taking chances. Filter out the blinding glare from oncoming cars at night. Drive safer and surer at night with lenses that combat headlight glare, cut fog, sharpen images, and filter haze. They cut through the darkness to make things sharper, clearer and much easier to see. They're handsomely styled and look like smart sunglasses.

Night Driving Glasses only \$6<sup>95</sup> per pair

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3038 N.W. 25th Ave., Pompano Bch., FL 33069

Send me the following products. All orders come with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

	Qty.	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Trimmer	—	\$7.95	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Can Crusher	—	12.95	—
<input type="checkbox"/> 47 Channel Converter	—	35.95	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnifying Sheet	—	2.95	—
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Shot Snub Nose	—	29.95	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Tear Gas \$8.95	<input type="checkbox"/> Blanks \$10.95	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaded Car Seat	—	19.95	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Model-T Weather Vane	—	7.45	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Donkey Weather Vane	—	7.45	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Night Driving Glasses	—	6.95	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Spectacles	<input type="checkbox"/> Clip-ons	—	—

Shipping & Handling charges add \$1.00

Total

Name

Address

City

State

Zip



# VETERANS ALERT

Continued from page 52

**USS LST 1030** Robert Brown, Box 104, Port Byron, NY 13140  
**USS LST 171** Huber Bock Jr., 1751 Preston Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 739-8462  
**USS LST 218** Jack McDonough, 5314 Chesapeake Rd., Hyattsville, MD 20781 (301) 779-6116  
**USS LST 293** Donald Grout, 1821 S. 58th Ct., Cicero, IL 60650 (312) 863-5442  
**USS LST 487** Wilbur Boyt, 9452 Corinth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (504) 926-5449  
**USS LST 929 (1944-46)** William Beard, 923 N. 10th St., Vincennes, IN 47591

**USS LST 968** Don Dussliere, 519 9th Ave., Silvis, IL 61282 (309) 796-1446  
**USS Oriskany CVA 34** Vernon Williams, 3204 Greencastle Rd., Burtonsville, MD 20866 (301) 496-4511  
**USS Pasadena CL 65 Plank owners (Marines Included/WWII)** William Muller, 3852 San Mateo Rd., Pontiac, MI 48055 (313) 674-1518  
**USS PC 810** Jack Smith, 1102 Willis, #3, Perry, IA 50220 (515) 465-5843  
**USS Perry DD 844** Richard Nolbert, 636 S. Sappington Rd., Oakland, MO 63122 (314) 966-5958  
**USS Pompon SSR 267 (1951-59)** John Lookabill, 2501 Bengal Rd., No. Charleston, SC 29418 (803) 797-2991  
**USS Richmond CL 9** Boyd Gill, 127 W. Halley St., Mt. Union, PA 17066 (814) 542-2225  
**USS Rochester CA 124** John Thompson, 665 School St., Stoughton, MA 02072 (617) 344-6354  
**USS Sampson DD 394** Thomas McDonald, 11 Kocama Ct., Ft. Myers, FL 33912  
**USS SC 536** Robert Wood, 812 E. Church, Union City, TN 38261  
**USS Sims DE 154/APD 50** Robert Klause, Box 186, Bendersville, PA 17306 (717) 677-6096

**USS Tuluran AG 46** George Knickerbocker, 13959 Riker Rd., Chelsea, MI 48118 (313) 475-2646  
**USS W.L. Lind DD 703** M.E. Smith, 8921 N.E. Afton Rd., Kansas City, MO 64155 (816) 436-1551  
**USS Wilkes DD 441 (WWII)** John Mercer, 2012 Dale Dr., Duplo, IL 62239  
**USS Worden DD 352** Dave Ayoub, 2027 FM 646 N, Santa Fe, TX 77510 (409) 925-2236  
**USS YMS 218 F.J.** O'Donnell, Box 88, Berlin Hts., OH 44814 (419) 588-2151  
**USS YMS 392** Shofner Meadows, 345 Waldron Rd., LaVergne, TN 37086 (615) 793-5381  
**VB-8, USS Intrepid/Bunker Hill/Bennington (1943-45)** Paul Berry, Rt. 4, Box 87, Interlachen, FL 32048 (904) 684-6470  
**VPB 202** Francis Menso, 10983 Horseshoe Dr., Frederick, MD 21701 (301) 898-5841  
**VRF 2 W.L.** Byars, 815 N. 9th, Duncan, OK 73533 (405) 255-3560

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## Did You Make This Mistake In Writing Your Will?.....

Canton, OH (Special) - You can spend money for a Will only to have a substantial part of your assets needlessly taken by lawyers, courts, executors and tax authorities through the probate process.

Why should you avoid probate? Simple. It costs too much and takes too long. Probate also creates an "invasion of your family's financial privacy!"

Now there's a far better way to protect your estate than having only a will. A new study reveals that a Living Trust is a low-cost alternative to probating a will, even for an average sized estate.

With access to the best estate and financial planners in America, the 'Wall Street Journal,' told in a recent article about the advantages of Living Trusts over Wills. The article states that "More and more Americans are putting their assets in Revocable Living Trusts while the owner is still alive. You can act as your own trustee so there are no management fees or loss of control. You can change the trust at any time. You also keep the bulk of your estate out of probate court with no public record or the usual nine months delay."

The 'Wall Street Journal' report went on to say: "The advantages of living trusts over wills are considerable. You may reduce taxes and simplify the transfer of assets to your heirs and loved ones."

"Under a will, an estate must be settled in probate court. Lawyers' fees and court costs are often quite expensive. There may be exasperating delays and the proceedings are a matter of public record." The intimate details of your family's finances are laid bare for all to see!

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"In contrast, a living trust is settled without court proceedings. Your spouse, child, or other person you designate simply distributes your assets according to the trust's instructions. An accountant or notary public may certify any transfer of titles. The process is much quicker, cheaper and more private than settling a will, and it may save on estate taxes."

Lawyers charge an average of \$60 for writing a will — and then get as much as eleven percent of the entire estate after the client dies and the will is probated. That percentage could cost your loved ones several Thousand Dollars even if your estate is small.

Working with a team of legal scholars, the highly respected DSA Financial Publishing Corp. of Canton, Ohio has prepared a Living Trust Kit designed so you can easily set up your own living trust. You'll get complete instructions written in easy-to-understand, step-by-step simple language. You'll also get complete guidelines on how to custom tailor your personal Living Trust so that any special wishes you may have for your estate are carried out.

It's easy to get your Living Trust Kit. All you have to do is send a check or money order in the amount of \$19.95 plus \$2 postage and handling or charge to your VISA/Mastercard by including account number and expiration date to: DSA Financial Publishing Corp., 708 - 12th St. N.W., Dept. W302, Canton, Ohio 44703. For even faster service call toll free 1-800-321-0888, Ext. W302. A 90 day money back guarantee is naturally offered. Do it now . . . while there is still time to protect your loved ones.

## Army Air Forces

**22nd Tow Target Sq. (Pyote/1944)** Dr. Ken Pierce, 2381 Keech Rd., Branchport, NY 14418  
**405th Ftr. Sq., 371st Ftr. Grp.** Alvin Johnson, Rt. 6, Box 594, Enid, OK 73701 (405) 446-5752  
**467th Serv. Sq.** Charles Ross, 110 69th St., Darien, IL 60559 (312) 920-0341  
**555th SAW Bn. & Air Grps. (1942-43)** Jess Jamison, 239 Porter St., Franklin, NC 28734 (704) 524-3509  
**557th Sig. Warn. Bn., 13th AF (1943-45)** James Fitzgerald, 2910 S.W. Arvonla Pl., Topeka, KS 66614

## Air Force

**4th A.F., 128th (H) Bombardment/B-24 (March Field)** Auburn Wheeler, 106 Creekwood Dr., Shelbyville, TN 37160 (615) 684-5381  
**11th Weather Sq. (Alaska/Korea)** George Starasta, 469 Idlewhile Dr., Farmington, IL 61531 (309) 245-4512  
**610th AF Band (Tyndall AFB, FL)** Fred Stumme, 259 Scotts Manor Dr., Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (301) 768-8179  
**1078th Bomb Sq. (Natel, Brazil/WWII)** Charles Chierchio, 1910 E. 16th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229 (718) 998-9557  
**7100 Air. Police Sq. (Wiesbaden, Germany/1958-62)** Rowland Garver, 182 E. 5th St., Peru, IN 46970 (317) 473-7184  
**Air Weather Serv. Vets Air Weather Assn., 5301 Reservation Rd., Placerville, CA 95667**  
**Class 50-E H. Stengel, 903 Pickett Ln., Newark, DE 19711 (302) 368-3860**  
**Detach. 5, 9th Air Postal Sq. (1965-66)** Chip Ackers, 8117 Glen Gary Rd., Baltimore, MD 21234 (301) 296-8186  
**HQ/USAFISPA (Magenta/Tontouta Crews/New Caledonia)** Paul Dunlap, 2421 Hilltop Ave., Muskogee, OK 74403  
**Pilot Class 52-B** Jack Lee, 14 Morrison Rd., Windham, NH 03087 (603) 432-9632  
**TUSLOG Detachs. 8 & 9, 6935 RSM, APO 294** David Moonitz, 12182 Scoutmaster Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 489-9377

## Marines

**2nd Bn., 1st Rgt., 1st Div., E/F/G/H&S Cos. (All Personnel/1965-71)** Robert Hughes Jr., Box 10, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 (609) 465-8429  
**3/27 Marines (Vietnam)** E. Fitzgerald, 3528 Mimosa Ct., New Orleans, LA 70131  
**HMM 365 (Vietnam)** William Schuldheisz, Rt. 3, Box 225C, Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
**Mar. Barracks, NOB Trinidad BWI (1946-50)** Joe Lommerse, 6432 Old Scotts Ct., Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-2411  
**VMF 113 (El Toro, Ewa, Engebi)** F.D. Scroggins, 103 Topeka, Irvine, CA 92714

## Coast Guard

**USCG 583 Patrol Boat** Henry Yuzczak, Star Rte. East, Box 139, Necedah, WI 54646 (608) 564-7922  
**USCG Cedar W 207** Joe Gehlen, Box 277, Silver Lake, MN 55381 (612) 327-2557  
**USS Grand Forks PF 11** Dick Campbell, 348 Lynwood Ave., Ottumwa, IA 52501 (515) 682-0098



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Yes, it is **UNBELIEVEABLE**. Our firm will actually offer our precision GFX-16 AM/FM Headphone Radios—the same ones we've nationally advertised in leading media throughout America—for the incredible price of only \$5 to every reader of this publication who responds before Midnight December 25, 1989.

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PAYMENT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ENCLOSED

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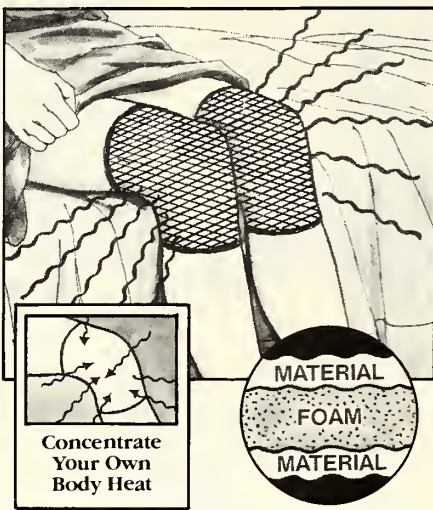
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If after receiving my order I'm not delighted, I may return it within 30 days for refund (except postage & handling.)

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I'll send you postpaid a selection of 42 factory-fresh cigars — vintage-leaf long-filler and cut-filler smokes. If these cigars aren't all you expected, return the unsmoked ones by United Parcel or Parcel Post within 30 days and I'll refund your money. No questions asked. Your delivered cost is only \$10.90 for 42 factory-fresh, Cuban-seed-leaf cigars.

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## EUROECONOMY

continued from page 37

The defense sector poses a special kind of problem, as it diverges from economics to the realm of foreign policy. At a conference in Brussels this spring Boeing President Frank Schrontz foresaw a "shift within Europe toward intra-European cooperation, a diminishing interest in trans-Atlantic cooperation, and in general, a more competitive relationship between European and American industries." His prediction may already be taking place. Four dozen intra-European cooperation projects now exist. Mergers and acquisitions have accelerated in the defense sector in anticipation of greater competitive pressures in the EC market. Britain's GEC and the German firm Siemens have joined forces in an attempt to take over Plessey, another British defense company. In West Germany, Daimler Benz is planning to take control of defense giant MBB, and in France, parts of government-owned Thomson-CSF and Aerospatiale have been merged.

The trend toward greater intra-European cooperation in defense at the expense of U.S. firms has, to a certain degree, been encouraged by U.S. government policy. American restrictions on high technology exports have forced the Europeans to build their own defense companies. Moreover, it has been U.S. policy to encourage the European members of NATO to pay more for the collective defense, known as "burden sharing." This policy also demonstrates that the interests of American business may not always overlap with the goals of U.S. foreign policy.

Perhaps the real significance of the EC is the establishment of a more united and self-confident European ally to serve the overall interests of Western security. As the official declaration issued after the May NATO summit stated, "We welcome the evolution of an increasingly strong and coherent European identity, including in the security area. . . . It opens the way to a more mature and balanced trans-Atlantic partnership." At a time when so much else in the world seems in flux—from Eastern Europe to China to Iran—the European Community's consolidation of its political and economic institutions in the 1990s will be a welcome anchor for Western interests.

So, two cheers for united Europe. ☐



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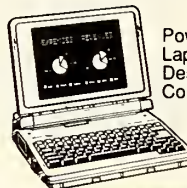
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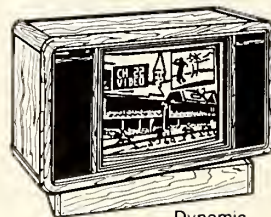
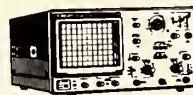
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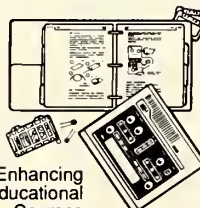


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## HOME

Continued from page 31

Two years before he retired as a lieutenant in homicide from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Bob O'Sullivan of Canoga Park began to research how to supplement his police pension. O'Sullivan and his wife Joyce started traveling in 1980 after his four children finished college. He decided to write travel stories for newspapers in 1984. Since then the 62-year-old has traveled to at least 30 countries and was named the Travel Journalist of the Year by the Society of American Travel Writers in 1987.

"When you retire, you find you're not an economic unit in the society you live in," O'Sullivan said. "Something just rises up in your throat when you no longer feel productive. I will keep writing until I die."

Fifteen years ago Paul Edwards, an attorney and chief executive officer of a research and development firm, and his wife, Sarah, a government administrator, decided to create their own home business. Since then they have authored *Working From Home* (Jeremy P. Tarcher, 1985), founded the Working from Home Forum on CompuServe Information Service, and have become the gurus of the plaid-collar worker.

Working out of their Santa Monica, Calif., home, Edwards and his wife use the latest technology, including four computers, a fax machine, laser printer and cellular phones.

"Before someone takes a plunge into the cold river of home business, they need to do a lot of research," Edwards advised. "Those who spend six to nine months of preparation usually succeed at twice the rate."

He said another key to home-business success is "self-management muscle. That's the muscle that enables you to be your own boss when no one looks over your shoulder, when no one follows up on you," Edwards said. "You're the CEO, the producer, the janitor—so you better be self-managed."

For thousands of Americans like Edwards, Mulford and Castleberry, punching clocks, putting up with bosses and commuting to work are irritants of the past. They now take the risks of business, but all the profits are theirs. They even have the advantage of being able to sneak into the refrigerator whenever they want. Or is that a disadvantage? ☐



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## PRESIDENT BUSH

Continued from page 29

My administration reviewed the agreement with special attention to the issue of technology transfer. I can assure you that the sensitive technologies involved will be controlled.

**Q.** The huge budget deficit seems to limit almost every action the federal government attempts to take. How can the United States move toward eventual balance without raising taxes—especially in the face of the growing demands for new domestic spending programs?

**A.** Restoring fiscal responsibility to the government means controlling spending, not raising taxes. We have achieved, by working with the Congress, a start toward fiscal health.

Our bipartisan budget agreement accomplishes the goal of meeting the targets for bringing the budget into balance. The Congress can do more by adopting my proposal for a cut in the capital gains tax. This proposal will

actually increase revenues to the government by reducing the burdens on small businesses—the engine of economic growth and job creation in America.

But I have also proposed a number of budget reforms designed to bring government spending under control. These include a Balanced Budget Amendment to end the chronic problem of spending that exceeds revenue; a line item veto; and a host of budget process reforms designed to end the last-minute passage of pork-barrel bills in Congress.

The federal deficit is Public Enemy No. 1. We must all join together to focus on the national interest rather than the special interests, and to return fiscal responsibility to the guardians of the taxpayers' money.

**Q.** What plan does your administration have for addressing the needs of homeless veterans?

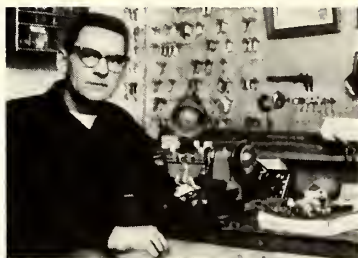
**A.** There is simply no excuse for homelessness in the most prosperous nation on Earth. Action must come from all levels of government as well as the private sector. I asked the Congress to fund the McKinney Act fully with \$746 million in fiscal year 1990. Under this plan, funding directed at homelessness will increase some 70 percent to \$1 billion.

VA has established a Working Group on Homelessness to coordinate efforts to provide VA benefits and services to eligible homeless veterans. Additionally, VA established the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Program and the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program. Subsequently, funding for these two programs was included as part of the McKinney Act.

Beyond the McKinney Act, I asked for an incremental \$50 million for a new matching grant program. This will involve partnerships with state and local agencies as well as not-for-profit and volunteer organizations.

There are many facets to the homelessness problem. The veterans' component is one. Thus, we must attack the problem from many directions. My program seeks to do just that by encouraging and supporting the most promising local solutions.

**Q.** The Department of Veterans Affairs is faced with significant delays in the processing of veterans' benefits claims and with a substantial deficit in its medical care funding, both reducing the quality of its services. What proposals will your administration recommend to alleviate these problems?



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**A.** I am working now with VA Secretary Derwinski to streamline the processing of claims and to put veterans' medical care funding on a solid foundation. Nothing is more important than to ensure that we meet our obligations to those who sacrificed to keep this country free. My pledge to veterans is that, working with the Congress, this administration will marshal every resource to fulfill those obligations. They are the first priority of our veterans' agenda.

**Q.** You have urged investment in the future as a means of building a stronger nation. What specific steps would you like to see taken in this area?

**A.** Investing in the future means addressing the challenges that we must surmount in order to make the 21st century the next American century.

First, it means advancing economic growth. I have asked Vice President Quayle to chair the new Council on Competitiveness which will develop policies to maintain and improve America's competitive position in the world market. And I have proposed encouraging long-term investment by cutting the capital gains tax. This measure will especially benefit America's small businesses.

Second, I also seek to increase our investment in basic research, both by making the Research and Experimentation tax credit permanent, and by increasing the government's investment in basic scientific research. In addition, I intend to maintain America's leadership in outer space, to spur high technology development, by increasing NASA's budget.

Third, investing in the future means investing in people. I have proposed a comprehensive program of education reform based on four principles: encouraging excellence in education, by teaching the basics and traditional

values in schools; enhancing parental choice of the schools their children will attend; helping those who need help the most; and encouraging greater accountability of students, teachers and principals.

Fourth, investing in the future means preserving the environment for future generations. I believe that a clean environment and economic growth are not contradictory but compatible. In fact, my recent proposal for a new Clean Air Act uses the forces of free enterprise to ensure that future pollution is prevented and past pollution is cleaned up.

Finally, I believe that we can invest in the future character of our citizens as well. I have called for the teaching of traditional American values, including love of country, in America's schools. Investing in character also means honoring the past.

That is why I believe it is crucial to constantly remind America's young that they benefit from the past sacrifices of the brave and dutiful. Of course, that means America's veterans. I have taken as one of my primary responsibilities, the task of using the "bully pulpit" to increase respect and honor for those who once wore, or wear today, the uniform of the Armed Forces of the United States. ☐

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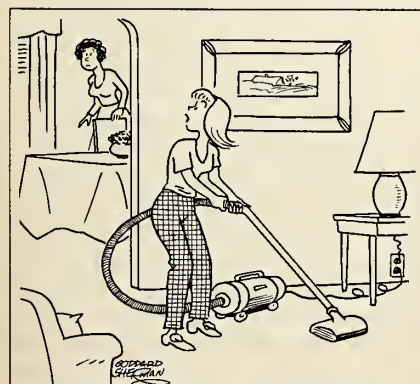


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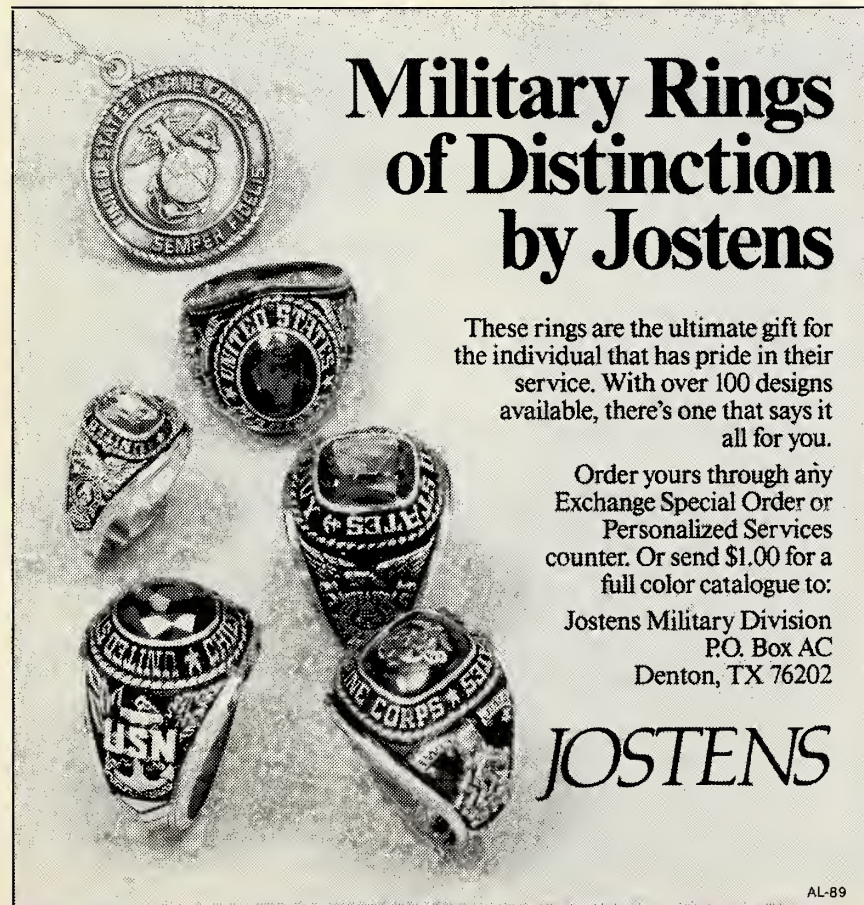
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# WAGES OF WAR

Continued from page 27

among the veterans who went to Washington that hot summer, they clearly were not in a position or in sufficient number to initiate much of anything. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, in command of 200 mounted cavalry, 300 infantry, five tanks and a special machine-gun unit, advanced on the unarmed marchers encamped in south-

east Washington, tear-gassed them, and drove them and their families out of town at bayonet point. Suffice it to say that this spectacle was not the general's finest hour.

Few listened when Norman Landreau, in 1932 the newly elected District Commander of The American Legion in the capital, criticized the eviction of the men as "unwarranted and un-American." Later studies of the Bonus March found no subversion or criminality; only hungry, disappointed veterans of the Great War.

And what of the veterans of World War II? They were the best treated of all

## SEND US YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE is interested in your views on the question: Based on your experience in uniform and what you've seen as a veteran, would you encourage your children to serve in the military? Send your letters to OPINIONS, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

veterans, mostly because of enactment of the G.I. Bill of Rights. That document, one of the most enlightened pieces of social legislation ever passed in the country, was largely the work of Harry Colmery, a former national commander of The American Legion. There were complex reasons why the nation was willing to spend \$50 billion on the G.I. Bill. One was Pearl Harbor and the great anger it caused in the United States; another was the reprehensible aspect of Nazi politics and the persona of Hitler; and finally, a hard-nosed effort to preclude the re-emergence of the Great Depression.

Even with all they had going for them, the veterans of World War II had their critics, too, and younger veterans should know that it wasn't all roses. There was, for example, prolonged, vociferous opposition to the G.I. Bill led by Rep. John E. Rankin of Mississippi, who was chairman of the House Veterans Committee. He said he thought that sending veterans to college was unpatriotic, because it would bring them into contact with college instructors whom he regarded as too liberal. Also forgotten by many in the euphoria of the post-World War II years were barbs directed at veterans by people like Robert M. Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, who said, "veterans unable to get work and equally unable to resist putting pressure on the colleges and universities, will find themselves educational hoboes..."

Hutchins and Rankin were dead wrong. The veterans of World War II did not become educational hoboes at all, but instead the backbone of a strengthened middle class. They bought homes and started businesses and sent their kids to college. The commerce and industry they generated more than compensated for whatever benefits they received from the G.I. Bill and everyone knows it, or at least, should know it. Why, then, was the G.I. Bill for Vietnam veterans scaled down so that veterans got fewer actual dollars to spend on education? There was no

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reason to believe that Vietnam veterans would do any less with their educational benefits than their World War II counterparts. Such benefits should not depend on the popularity of a war but on the nature of military service, which is perilous in all wars.

Consider those who served in Korea, who are still struggling to obtain the respect and recognition that was denied them three decades ago. Those soldiers were as loyal and as steadfast as any in American history. And yet, they were blamed for failing to win a war that the government insisted upon calling a mere police action, a conflict it really did not want to pursue. Worse, they heard themselves scapegoated in tens of thousands of ill-considered pamphlets and tracts circulated by the Army which accused them of being soft, of defecting in huge numbers to the communist side, of massively giving in to the communist brainwashing. William Erwin Mayer, whom the Army retained to study the conduct of U.S. troops during the Korean War, suggested that fully one-third of all Americans captured in Korea gave in when the communists subjected them to brainwashing.

A few years later, Mayer was effectively rebutted in Albert Biderman's *March to Calumny*. In point of fact, Biderman found that the conduct of Korean-era soldiers was consistent with the conduct of all the other citizen soldiers who have served this country over the years with such distinction. Biderman found no substance to Mayer's suggestion that a third of the prisoners defected.

Only 21 Americans chose not to return home—as opposed to 88,000 Chinese and North Korean prisoners who refused repatriation. And yet, because Mayer's original charges were given so much more publicity than Biderman's refutation of them, one still finds veterans of Korea who feel libeled for doing things they know they did not do.

Nevertheless, whatever the war and the conditions that followed, most veterans throughout our history have plunged into peacetime pursuits quickly. Contrary to the mean-spirited stories sometimes spread by shortsighted government bureaucrats who would like taxpayers to believe that they must protect the treasury against the demands of veterans, our ex-soldiers have made relatively little of their own sacrifices and have reintegrated themselves into American life. More often than not, they have borne the scars of war silently.

Our nation's veterans have been an absolute bargain. ☐

## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE MONTH



Selma Deyo

**S**ELMA Deyo's love affair with the U.S. Flag began more than 50 years ago when her father erected a flag pole in her front yard. In the ensuing years, Deyo's affection for the flag earned her the nickname of "Flag Lady" in her hometown of Huntington, W. Va.

Every morning and evening without fail, Deyo would raise and lower the

flag, "weather permitting, of course." The life member of Huntington Post 16 of West Virginia continued to fly the flag daily until two years ago when advancing years forced her to move into the Heartland of Riverview Nursing Home in South Point, Ohio.

Her adjustment to nursing-home life was smooth, but she missed not being able to fly the flag. After much thought, she approached Mike Snow, nursing home administrator, and last year she was put in charge of the home's flag.

Deyo enlisted in the Navy in 1918. When she was discharged in 1919, she became a Legionnaire, and after World War II, she helped organize an all-women's Post and served as one of its commanders. During her 70 years in the Legion, Deyo has been a volunteer in VA hospitals, contributing 1,500 hours visiting veterans.

"The flag means everything to me," said Deyo, who at 91 years old still maintains her commitment to the flag, despite a pacemaker, wheelchair and hip replacement. "Every morning when I raise it, I think of our veterans and their sacrifices. As long as I'm alive, she'll wave proudly." ☐

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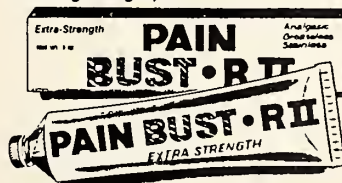
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## MILES S. EPLING

*Continued from page 47*

elections and agree to democratic reforms. During my visit to Nicaragua last spring with my predecessor, "Sparky" Gierke, the best description of the communist Sandinistas' control over its people came from an ordinary Nicaraguan citizen, who asked, "How can you have free elections when the candidates hold guns?"

We know that democracy can work in Central America. For example, in El Salvador last spring, there was a peaceful transition of government when President Alfredo Cristiani took office, despite the constant threats of a rejuvenated communist insurgency. The Legion has been a strong supporter of aid to the fledgling democracies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the long-time democratic stronghold of Costa Rica. The United States should continue providing economic and military assistance to ensure economic growth and to give democracy a chance to flourish throughout the region.

**Q.** As a Vietnam veteran, you obviously are interested in seeing the POW/MIA issue resolved. Do you think that will ever happen?

**A.** The solutions to this tragedy are in Hanoi. Only the governments of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia can account for the more than 2,300 Americans who are still missing. The Legion encourages all Americans to pressure Hanoi by sending letters and telegrams that demand answers.

**Q.** A large number of America's homeless are veterans. What can be done for them?

**A.** It's estimated that one-third of America's 472,000 homeless males are veterans, the majority of whom served during the Vietnam War era. Many of them suffer from mental illnesses. The Legion is busy initiating programs that help get veterans off streets and into treatment centers, and eventually into steady jobs. One example of how the Legion is involved with homeless veterans is in Pittsburgh, where the Department of Pennsylvania and VA have joined forces to operate a shelter. The Department paid for the shelter and its renovation. But we should remember that homelessness is not exclusive to veterans; it's a national issue and a terrible nightmare for

hundreds of thousands of Americans.

**Q.** Now that we have reached our goal of 3 million members, a 41-year high, what next?

**A.** Let me emphasize that our 3 million-member goal is not an end in itself, but just the logical result of The American Legion being in step with the aims and values of mainstream America. We have seen membership increase steadily, especially during the past five years, and we expect that this year's membership milestone is just the threshold of a membership surge that will continue for years to come.

Our programs and our goals are what attract veterans to the Legion, and that's been so for seven decades. We understand America and we feel we are in tune with what Americans feel is important. A perfect example is our current campaign to secure a constitutional amendment making the physical desecration of the United States Flag unlawful.

A recent Gallup Poll shows that more than two-thirds of Americans want to make sure that the flag is accorded proper respect, and I dare say the percentage of veterans who feel that way is even higher. We started a flag-education campaign and a constitutional amendment petition drive to make sure that "we, the people" have a say in how this matter is finally resolved. So far we have several hundred thousand signatures and this campaign is going to continue until we see the adoption and ratification process well under way.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nat'l Cmdr. Miles S. Epling concluded his acceptance speech and began autographing campaign placards and accepting congratulations from supporters who traveled long distances to attend the National Convention in Baltimore. As the Convention Hall began to empty, Epling paused for a few moments to survey the scene and reflect on the days ahead. There will be few moments of rest for the West Virginian during the next 12 months as he visits Departments and Posts across America and overseas, a trek that will carry him 300,000 miles.

But the man elected to lead the world's largest veterans' organization is eager to prove that he's up to the task, and to justify the faith and confidence that 3 million Legionnaires have extended to him. Being ready to walk the point is what wearing the red cap of National Commander of The American Legion is all about. □



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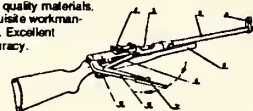
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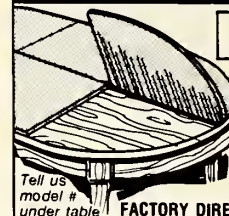
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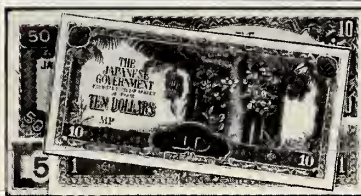
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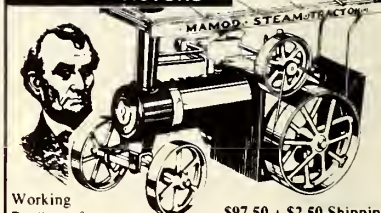
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## COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to do so. Usually an eyewitness statement is needed in support of a VA claim.

Notices are run only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search for Witness Forms available only from State Legion Service Officers. Please contact CID (number). The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

**HQ Div. Arty., 1st Cav. Div.** Sandy D. Crowder needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Korea in Jan. or Feb. 1965, he passed out and was taken to the 1st Sgt's office until the ambulance arrived and then was transported to the dispensary. He also passed out while stationed at Tan Tru, Vietnam in 1968-69 and was taken to the dispensary. Contact CID 1217

**511th Airborne, Co. F** Sylvester Perry needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Ft. Campbell in April 1953, he suffered a back injury during a practice parachute jump. Contact CID 1218

**3rd Spec. Seabees** Walter Joyal needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Okinawa from August to December 1945 his ship was in a contaminated area and he had to wash down the deck and rails. Contact CID 1219

**3019th T.L.C.** Lambert Kenowski needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Camp Younghans, Japan in 1952, he was on a firing range and the person next to him fired close to his ears causing a hearing loss. Contact CID 1220

## TAPS

**Taps Notices** mention, whenever possible, those Legionnaires who have held high national or department office in the Legion or the U.S. government, or who have attained other forms of national prominence.

**Chauncey Biffle**, MT Department Commander (1943-44), Department Vice Commander (1940-41).

**Roger W. Haley**, FL Department Vice Commander (1988).

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

**Life Membership notices** are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life Membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

**James W. Hatfield, Elias L. Mulch** (1987) Post 16, Homer, AK

**Robert L. Surber** (1988), **William T. Kinkade** (1989) Post 447, Sacramento, CA

**David Henderson** (1989) Post 238, Safety Harbor, FL  
**Charles E. Freeman, Robert W. Thibodeau** (1989) Post 41, Wendell, ID

**Gordon A. Graper** (1989) Post 20, Crown Point, IN  
**Newton H. Nelson, John L. Verzwylt** (1989) Post 256, Forest Hill, LA

**Henry Young** (1982), **Charles Covill** (1983), **Alvin Luiz** (1984), **George Hadfield, Willis Tripp** (1985), **Albert Barney, Alfred Teixeira** (1986), **Avelino Barboza, Ernest Lizotte** (1987), **Walter Galuski, Edward Szeliga** (1988), **Louis P. Normand, John V. Sylvia** (1989), Post 166, Fairhaven, MA





*"So that's the stupid-looking thing the women come here to stare at every day."*

## Lunar Laughs

Twenty years ago, men landed on the moon. Yesterday, their luggage arrived.

## B-2 Sneaky

"We should think of the Stealth Bomber's peacetime uses," said the carousing husband to his drinking buddy. "Imagine coming home late at night undetected."

## Capital Idea

"I'm not against capital punishment," said the disgruntled taxpayer. "There are a lot of people in the Capitol who should be punished."

## Back Beat

In the old days, music had a nice up-beat. These days, it sounds like the musicians are being beat up.

## Risky Business

Yesterday's mistakes are paid for at today's prices.

## Tow To Foot

"What do you call a guy who has missed 10 car payments?" asked one repo man to another.

"A pedestrian," the other replied.

## Son Down

"My father never paid much attention to me," said the son. "When I came home after three years in the service, he said, 'So, how was the movie?'"

## Confucius On Calories

Too many square meals will give you a round body.

## Short Sighted

Sign in office of optometrist partners: "We split everything 20-20."

## Snail's Pace

"This is such a conservative town," said the bored teen-ager. "The amusement park's roller coaster even has speed bumps."

## School Daze

The problem with our schools is that they are run by people who went to our schools.

## Work Haze

"I've been daydreaming too much," said the executive. "The secretaries have been giving me 'While You Were Here' messages."

## Commode Case

Criminals are more brazen these days. Thieves broke into a police precinct and took all the toilet fixtures. So far, the police have nothing to go on.

## Too Many Years

"My kid couldn't decide between a two-year or a four-year college, so he compromised," said the tuition-paying parent. "He went to a two-year college for four years."

## TV Toddlers

Q. What do you call an infant hooked on television?

A. A couch tater-tot.

## Rocky, Part XXIII

One movie-goer reported that the line to one of the summer's hit movies was so long that by the time he got into the theater, they were showing the sequel.



*"You know very well that isn't what I meant you to write!"*



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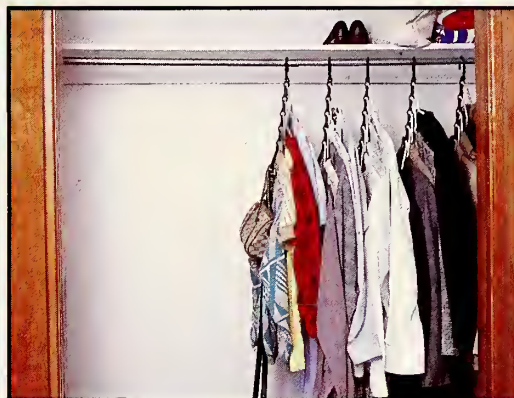
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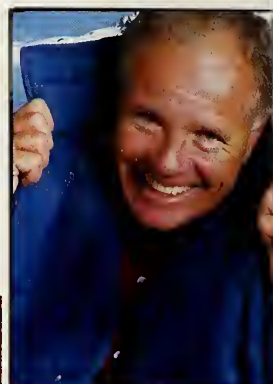
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